

## Dictator 'a broken man' as he surrenders to US drug agents

# Noriega in shackles faces 100 years' jail

From Charles Bremner, Miami

Manuel Noriega, wearing his general's uniform and handcuffs, was locked up like a common felon in a Miami jail yesterday, as his lawyers vowed to expose the former dictator's long service as a Central Intelligence Agency "asset".

The prospects of a long, politically embarrassing trial, the jubilation in the Bush administration over Noriega's removal yesterday from the Vatican Mission in Panama to the holding cell at the Federal District Court.

Church officials in Panama said the general was a broken man when he was formally arrested by Drug Enforcement Agency officers.

The outline of General Noriega's defence - to implicate the CIA and if possible President Bush - became clear soon after he was whisked in a convoy from Homestead Air Force Base

into the court house, where he was to be charged with multiple offences including conspiracy, racketeering, money laundering and importing huge quantities of drugs. He faces a theoretical maximum of more than 100 years in jail.

Noriega fired the opening shot in the legal battle by refusing to recognize the jurisdiction of the US courts. His lawyers said he would enter no

plea when formally charged last night. Earlier, they had said he would plead not guilty.

Mr Steven Kollin, his lawyer, said his team would immediately request secret government documents detailing General Noriega's relationship with the CIA and Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North's operations to fund the Contra rebel army.

Evidence that Noriega was cultivated and paid a generous stipend by the CIA has emerged from Congressional hearings. US newspapers have also obtained letters from the DEA to Noriega, praising his services.

Noriega's lawyers are expected to adopt the so-called "Oliver North" defence and call as witnesses every CIA director of the past 20 years, including President Bush, who ran the agency from 1976 to 1977. They will also call CIA station chiefs in Panama and former officials involved in the Iran-Contra affair.

Noriega is expected to argue that whatever drug trade he shared in was condoned by the US as payment for his help in arming the Contras.

Noriega has repeatedly hinted that he holds damning evidence against President Bush personally. Mr Bush went out of his way over Christmas to say he had nothing to fear from any disclosures by Noriega.

Washington officials said the CIA had only just begun to study its files for references to dealings with Noriega and fellow officers at the Panama Defence Forces, a body created by the Americans.

The Government may have to choose between exposing sensitive information and dropping certain charges. Mr Richard Thornburgh, the Attorney-General, said yesterday: "We are confident that we can successfully prosecute

Noriega," but many legal experts predicted that the intricate rules of the US legal system could obstruct a trial.

For example, none of the evidence obtained in the seizure of Noriega's files is likely to be permitted because it was obtained without a warrant. In repeatedly describing Noriega as a "drug-dealing dictator", President Bush may himself be held to have prejudiced the trial. Then there is the problem of finding a jury untainted by "pre-trial publicity".

In any event, the wrangling is expected to delay the full trial by many months and possibly years.

The Miami prosecutors hope they will obtain valuable help in their task from Lieutenant Colonel Luis del Cid, a senior Noriega aide who was arrested last week and charged with acting as Noriega's liaison with the Colombian drug barons.

The prosecutors are believed to be offering him a bargain under which certain charges would be dropped if he testified against his former chief.

Meanwhile, details emerged from Panama on the way Mgr José Sebastian Laboa, the Papal Nuncio, persuaded the former dictator to surrender. Mgr Laboa was said to have told Noriega: "You may get a comfortable prison - a Colorado castle with all the amenities, but if you wait too long you will be sitting in Alcatraz."

After his surrender, one of Noriega's top aides handed himself over to US troops. Lieutenant-Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan, former head of Panama's criminal investigation force, was one of nine refugees left in the Vatican embassy after Noriega surrendered, faces no charges in the US and was transferred to a Panamanian prison.



Manuel Noriega: Aims to implicate Bush.



Racketeers: Pots and pans being hammered in joy by Panamanians yesterday as they celebrated the surrender of General Noriega on Wednesday night.

## Howard gives a warning on pay

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Less than 24 hours after his appointment, Mr Michael Howard, the new Secretary of State for Employment, issued a warning to Britain's workforce that high wage demands would lead to increased unemployment.

In a day of hectic activity, which involved a helicopter flight to Sandringham to receive from The Queen his credentials as a member of the Privy Council, Mr Howard indicated that he will steer the same course as his predecessor, Mr Norman Fowler.

Mr Howard, who took up his new position against speculation that the 40-month decrease in unemployment figures could soon end said: "My message to the trade union movement and to everyone else is that one man's pay increase is another man's job loss."

"This was the message of Lord Callaghan, the last Labour Prime Minister, and it is as true now as it was then."

Mr Howard indicated that the Government's "tremendous success" in creating 2.25 million jobs since 1983 could be in jeopardy if unions and other workers insisted on

pressing for rises in excess of inflation.

He said: "If we get high wage demands without matching productivity we will become less competitive and lose jobs. These are ab

solutely undeniable facts which no Government could alter".

Earlier, he had refused to be drawn on how the unemployment figures would fare over the next few months. "We do not know what the unemployment figures will show over the months ahead. But what I think we must all remember is that no-one can assume uninterrupted economic bliss."

"Managing the economy is a difficult business. It is quite foolish to assume that there are no difficulties. Sometimes they lead to unpalatable consequences."

Continued on page 2, col 5

## Gorbachov delays talks

By Nick Worrall, Moscow, and Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

President Gorbachov has called off contacts with foreign politicians planned for this month to concentrate on the growing domestic unrest in the Soviet Union, it was disclosed last night.

The gravity with which the Soviet leadership regards the present crisis was disclosed as Mr Gorbachov asked Mr Neil Kinnock to postpone his recently arranged three-day visit to Moscow due to start next weekend.

The announced postponement of such contacts is seen as underlining the scale of concern in Moscow at the protests on the Iran border in the republic of Azerbaijan and moves by the Baltic republics towards independence from the Soviet Union.

With Mr Gorbachov's popularity at home falling amid continued shortages of food and consumer goods, anti-communist and anti-government feeling in the outer republics are providing friction to heat the chill Soviet winter.

On Tuesday the Soviet leader is scheduled to fly to Lithuania to talk to breakaway Communist Party officials

about reuniting with the Soviet Communist Party (CPSU).

A two-day or three-day visit to Vilnius, the republic's capital, is now in prospect, and much hard talking to communists who voted by 855-160 last month to form an independent Communist Party. The Vilnius

visit was widely expected after the Lithuanian party chief, Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, had travelled to Moscow to talk to Mr Gorbachov. His second party secretary, Mr Vladimir Beriozov, later told Lithuanian journalists: "No attempt will be made to try and stop the process."

"Communists want independence. I think we were understood," Mr Beriozov said, adding that Mr Gorbachov, who had been adamant only two weeks ago and condemned the Lithuanian decision, now had a completely different attitude.

The Moscow talks yesterday were described as having been held in a "constructive at-

mosphere". Mr Gorbachov was supported by the CPSU's ideology chief, Mr Vadim Medvedev, and his internal commission chief, Mr Alexander Yakovlev, both of them Politburo members.

The date for Mr Kinnock's talks with Mr Gorbachov, due to have taken place on Tuesday January 16, had been settled with Moscow only since Christmas and was announced last Sunday. Yesterday Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet Ambassador, called on Mr Kinnock with a personal message from Mr Gorbachov.

In it Mr Gorbachov said that "political events in the Soviet Union" required his "personal attention and participation". With regret he had to ask Mr Kinnock to postpone his visit.

A statement from Mr Kinnock's office added: "Mr Gorbachov informed Mr Kinnock that he was postponing contact with foreign politicians scheduled for January. "Mr Kinnock responded that he appreciated the circumstances which had to take priority and that he

Continued on page 22, col 1

## Bundesbank acts to push down dollar

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The informal agreement on currencies by the Group of Seven industrialized countries was put under strain yesterday by the actions of the West German Bundesbank, which intervened in the markets to push down the dollar.

The West German action, which traders said would not be welcomed by other G7 members, knocked the dollar down almost three pennings, and further strengthened the already-strong mark, which has been boosted recently by optimism over East Europe.

Stirling was caught in the crossfire. It fell sharply against the mark closing down 2.77 pennings at DM 2.7456, but it rose 1.65 cents against the dollar to \$1.6275.

The effective rate index closed down 0.3 at 86.7.

Report, page 23  
Comment, page 25

## Cabinet supports Clarke's 999 line

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Kenneth Clarke's tough line in the ambulance dispute was given Cabinet backing yesterday as Sir Geoffrey Howe linked it directly to the conquest of inflation.

With the Secretary of State for Health under attack from some in his own party for the way he has handled the dispute, the Deputy Prime Minister again underlined the Government's determination to stand firm.

Ministers fear that an excessive deal for the ambulance men would open the way to similar claims throughout the health service.

Sir Geoffrey, speaking in a BBC radio interview, said: "If we are interested in restoring completely our success against inflation and heading off the threat of rising unemployment we must have sense in pay claims. The ambulance men are one of the crucial factors in

that argument."

His intervention came as ambulance workers urged a 15-minute national stoppage on January 30 to show support for the crews.

In an apparent olive branch Mr Roger Poole, the chief union negotiator, has written to Mr Clarke repeating that the unions will accept less than their 11 per cent claim but not the sums they have already rejected.

Leaders of the five unions met in London to discuss stepping up action in the dispute and for the first time discussed - but then rejected - the possibility of an all-out strike.

Mr Poole said: "We are stepping up the dispute, but we have decided not to call an all-out strike because we gave a pledge to the public when this dispute started that we

Continued on page 22, col 3

## US troops prepare to withdraw from Panama

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

The surrender of General Noriega will advance the withdrawal of American troops from Panama, Mr Richard Cheney, the US Defence Secretary, said yesterday.

Hailing the former dictator's surrender as "the icing on the cake" of an "enormously successful operation", Mr Cheney said there was "no really major pocket of resistance left" in Panama.

General Colin Powell, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, flew to Panama City to plan the orderly

withdrawal of the invasion force, though not the permanent garrison, over the next few weeks. Fewer than 1,000 have returned so far.

Meanwhile, President Bush telephoned the Pope to thank the Vatican for its help in persuading Noriega to surrender.

Mr Cheney said that before he surrendered, Noriega had asked for four conditions to be met: that there be no press coverage of his departure from the Vatican embassy, that he

Continued on page 22, col 7

## CBE for Herr Rommel, son of the 'Desert Fox'

By Andrew McEwen in London and Ian Murray in Bonn



Manfred Rommel: Admirer of liberal traditions.

In a gesture believed to be unprecedented, the Queen has approved the award of the CBE to the son of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, who became known as "the Desert Fox" for his campaigns against the Allies during the Second World War.

Herr Manfred Rommel, Mayor of Stuttgart, received the award yesterday from Sir Christopher Mallaby, the British Ambassador, at a special ceremony in the city.

He was made an honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for his considerable contribution to reconciliation between the former adversaries following the war. A Foreign Office citation spoke of

his "long and valuable services to Anglo-German relations". But the move was also a reminder of extraordinary changes in the relationship over the past 50 years. His father was portrayed in official wartime photographs wearing an Iron Cross.

It was Rommel who drove the British in Africa back into Egypt in 1942, while commanding Hitler's Afrika Korps. He won huge popularity in Germany and also gained respect among counterparts in the Allies for his initiative and ability to improvise in difficult situations. However, he was defeated in the second battle of El-Alamein in October 1942, and in March the following year Hitler ordered him home. He died in 1944, most probably taking his own life after being implicated in the unsuccessful plot

to kill or topple Hitler. However, others have suggested that he was murdered on Hitler's orders.

Herr Rommel the younger, now aged 60, is widely known in his own right as Oberbürgermeister of Stuttgart.

Whitehall sources said he was a strong admirer of British political institutions and liberal traditions and had done much to assist Anglo-German reconciliation.

He had been an enthusiastic supporter of the twinning of Stuttgart with Cardiff. He also encouraged Mr James Stirling, the British architect whose works include the famous Stuttgart art gallery.

In a related move the Foreign Office announced that the British Consulate General in Stuttgart is to re-open soon after being closed since 1984.

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**INSIDE**

**The Pope's diplomats**

● General Manuel Noriega's 11-day sojourn in the Vatican embassy in Panama City has turned the international spotlight on the influence and power of the Holy See: page 10

● There were two winners of yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize (see page 3). Today's chance to win £2,000 is on page 27

**TOMORROW**

**BOATING**

● From messing about on the river to putting a fully crewed ocean racer to sea, the world of yachting is reflected in our 16-page full-colour supplement

**'Poor nannies'**

Business couples in the South-east of England, earning £40,000 a year, are underpaying their nannies, cleaners and housekeepers, a conference in Glasgow was told. Page 7

**Brabham safe**

The future of the Brabham Formula One motor racing team has been assured with Mike Earle and Joe Chamberlain, who until recently ran the Moneytron Onyx team, joining the Brabham board, along with Romeo Casola, an Italian businessman. Page 38

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Climbers survive two avalanches

Three climbers yesterday survived being hit by two avalanches that swept them 400ft in the Cairngorm range (Kerry Gill writes). One of the men was being treated for serious head injuries last night. The climbers were swept over the edge of Coire an Sneachda, and were hit by a second avalanche near the end of their fall. They were rescued by skiers. An RAF helicopter flew the man to hospital.

The Scottish Avalanche Project later issued a warning to hillwalkers about the risk of further avalanches.

Another avalanche injured a climber late yesterday on Beinn Bhuidé, near Braemar. A mountain rescue team reached him and he was flown to hospital by the RAF.

## MP's case in secret

The entire third day of the trial of Ron Brown, Labour MP for Edinburgh, Leith, who denies theft and criminal damage at his former mistress's flat in East Sussex, was taken up by legal argument yesterday. Mr Brown is accused of causing almost £800 worth of damage to Mrs Norma Longden's flat in St Leonards and of stealing her jewelry and underwear. The case will resume today at Lewes Crown Court.

## Car sales set record

Car sales set a record last year, with 2.3 million new cars sold in Britain, making it the fifth successive record-breaking year and the third with sales above two million. However, Mr Simon Foster, director of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "The last few months of 1989 showed a marked downturn in registration and it is unlikely that new car sales in 1990 will exceed last year's level." It predicts sales of 2.1 million to 2.2 million.

## Record firms may sue

The British Phonographic Industry (BPI), representing the big record companies, is considering legal action against the consumer magazine *Which?* after its report into the alleged artificially high prices of compact discs (Mark Souster writes). *Which?* said there was no justification for prices as high as £11 for a CD which might cost only £1 to produce. The BPI said yesterday: "We think the report is unhelpful, inaccurate, misleading and libellous."

## Gummer call rejected

Farmers yesterday rejected a plea by Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, for unrestricted food supply in the Common Market. Delegates at the Oxford Farming Conference voted for keeping the principle of support for farmers' incomes and for the monopoly supply powers of the potato and milk marketing boards. Mr Charles Runge, Milk Marketing Board chief executive, said it was not a time to end management of milk supplies.

## Labour rule 'will burden business and aid consumer'

By Nigel Williamson, Political Staff

A Labour government will result in an increased financial burden on industry and business, but consumers will be better protected, according to an independent report published yesterday.

The report says that while consumer and pressure groups have played a significant role in shaping Labour's new policies, there has been a lack of liaison with industry, resulting in its priorities and concerns not being properly reflected in the party's policy review.

The report, published by Public Policy Consultants, says it is "the most up-to-date in-depth analysis of Labour's policies" and is based on months of examination of Labour's published policy documents and front-bench statements and interviews.

The report says: "Business comes out of the policy review poorly. There is no doubt that burdens will increase substantially, and probably unacceptably, as things stand."

That is only partly Labour's fault and represents "an obvious testament to the relative lack of attention paid to the Labour Party by business and industry."

In particular, the report singles out employment and training legislation, research and development, penalties and contract compliance requirements as imposing a burden on business which it

will find hard to bear. The report also fears that Labour's business and industrial policies will result in the creation of several dozen new quangos. "Bureaucracy will burgeon."

One of Labour's immediate measures on taking power, it predicts, will be to use golden shares to have greater control over privatized utilities. The report also finds that Labour's policy on dividends and shares is still confused.

Labour's economic policy is vague and does not dispel doubts over Labour's competence, the report says. It also questions Labour's newly professed commitment to market forces.

The findings of the report will disappoint Labour leaders, who have attempted to identify Labour closely with the needs of industry by claiming to be "the party of production".

They will, however, draw comfort from the party's apparent success in projecting itself as the consumer's friend.

One of the aims underpinning the party's Policy Review was to get away from Labour's traditional image as being more concerned with the producers of goods and services than with their recipients.

*Labour's New Policies: The Complete Guide* (Public Policy Consultants, 50 Rochester Row, London SW1 1JU; £31.50)

## Howard begins his new job

TED BATH



Mr Howard arriving at the Department of Employment yesterday to take up his new post.

Continued from page 1

Continued from page 1

Mr Howard, who knew his predecessor, Sir Norman Fowler, when they were both at Cambridge, made it clear that he shared the same reservations that it should become a universal blueprint for all member states.

The charter, he indicated, could not be written in stone and should allow sufficient flexibility for member states to implement employment prac-

tices within their own labour culture.

Mr Howard appeared to accept that once he has steered through Parliament the employment Bill, which ends the closed shop and curbs wildcat strikes, the framework of legislation for the unions would be about right.

Against this background, Mr Howard yesterday laughed at suggestions that he could be the last Secretary of State for Employment.

Pundits have suggested that now the trade unions have been emasculated the main raison d'être for his ministry

has been fulfilled and a marriage with the Department of Trade and Industry or even the Department of Education would be logical.

Mr Howard spoke forcefully of the pivotal role of his new department in promoting, financing and encouraging training.

"It is the single most important challenge facing the country. It is fundamental, for without a properly trained workforce Britain cannot succeed. I am deeply committed to ensuring the success of our programmes and expanding them."

## Fowler devotes a day to his family

By Suzy Price

Sir Norman Fowler, who resigned as Secretary of State for Employment to devote more time to his family, spent his first day away from the front benches relaxing with his wife and two daughters yesterday.

He posed for photographs in Hurlingham Park in Fulham near his home and spoke enthusiastically about his plans.

"I am not sorry to leave," he said. "It has been great fun being a Cabinet minister, but there are a lot of other really good things to come."

He and his wife are planning a four-day break in private — "nowhere exotic and we're not skiing or doing anything ambitious or foolhardy" — before he settles down to write his memoirs of the past 15 years.

He also said he was looking forward to speaking more widely on subjects outside the departments he had served.

But the main attraction of the coming months was the opportunity to spend more time with wife, Fiona, and daughters, Kate, aged eight, and Isabel, five.

"I only used to see my daughters at breakfast which was a bit of a rush," he said. "I will now have time to talk to them, read stories and go out. We might even go to the cinema. I haven't been there for a decade."

"You cannot go back on a child's life or put it on the shelf. If it's gone it's gone."

The change has his children's approval. Kate said: "I'm looking forward to seeing more of daddy instead of him just popping in and out saying 'see you later'."

## Hammond condemns past policy

## TUC 'dined with bandits' attack

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the electricians' union, which has been expelled from the Trades Union Congress, last night attacked other union leaders who he accused of "junketing with a crowd of bandits" in the past in the former hard-line communist-ruled eastern European countries.

In an interview which will set back any hope of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union being readmitted into the ranks of the TUC, Mr Hammond said: "There must be British union leaders who hope that some files in Eastern Europe must remain closed."

Mr Hammond, speaking on the BBC Radio 4 PM programme, accused the unions of "fence sitting" in its early relationship with Solidarity, whose chairman, Mr Lech Walesa, recently visited Britain as a guest of the TUC.

"The events of 1980 were too recent for us to forget the hostility of the TUC when Frank Chapple, my predecessor, tried to gain support for Solidarity and stop the TUC visit to headline Poland. Frank was removed from the TUC inner cabinet for his courage in speaking out."

Mr Hammond said: "But no gloss can conceal how the

TUC and the unions who opposed us gave credibility to those corrupt government unions across Eastern Europe.

"The leaders of those communist unions now have to account for their deeds."

Mr Hammond, whose remarks will also make it even more difficult for his union to merge with the TUC-affiliated Amalgamated Engineering Union, said his purpose in recording "this not very proud chapter in trade union history" was not to gloat "nor to castigate leaders of other unions for their junketing with a crowd of bandits."

He said he would be ignoring the "historical truth of the last decade" if he ignored the role of his union during the period.

"Time and time again our union has stood out against this nonsense in the union movement, often taking a lot of abuse and threats of violence and then being proven correct."

Referring to the expulsion of his union from the TUC over the issue of single-union recognition, Mr Hammond said the TUC now accepted the campaign for the European Social Charter, which would give the right of a citizen to join the union of his choice.

## Street shootings raise fears of gangland feud

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

Detectives investigating a gun battle in a London street believe the incident could be part of a gangland feud.

They think the shooting on Tuesday, and another in the same area of Islington, north London, the night before, could be part of a gang battle over business interests.

On Tuesday, two groups of men with a sawn-off shotgun and handguns exchanged eight or nine shots in Huntingdon and Crescent Streets, then disappeared in two cars. The men in one group were in their

twenties, the others were older.

The previous night, shots were fired from the street at a man moving along flat roofs above shops in the Caledonian Road, a few hundred yards from Tuesday's shooting. Neither the target nor the gunman has been found.

Nor has any connection with any of the shops been established.

No-one was hurt in either of the incidents, but one man has been arrested and released on police bail.

## Amnesiac faces fire charge

Mr William McFetrich, the Scottish-born, naturalized Danish citizen undergoing treatment for amnesia in Abbotsville hospital, northern France, awaits pyromania charges on his return to Denmark (Christopher Follett writes).

Mr McFetrich, aged 45, is a puppeteer and is married to Miss Hanne Severinsen, a leading Danish Liberal MP. He is charged with setting fire to their home in Skjern, West Jutland.

His wife heard that Mr McFetrich had been found in Abbotsville after his picture was published in *The Times*.

## CORRECTIONS

The architect of New Court offices and library at Leabury, one of the RIBA national award winners mentioned on January 3 is William G McMorran, not McCorran as printed.

Our report on business rates yesterday should have referred to the Retail Forum as printed.

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VENUS	TICKET PRICE	£169.99	£123.99	£109.99	£149.99	£139.99	£149.99	£49.99	£74.99	£84.99
45% OFF COUNTY	TICKET PRICE	£169.99	£123.99	£109.99	£149.99	£139.99	£149.99	£49.99	£74.99	£84.99
CHALFONT	TICKET PRICE	£169.99	£123.99	£109.99	£149.99	£139.99	£149.99	£49.99	£74.99	£84.99
45% OFF COUNTRY	TICKET PRICE	£169.99	£123.99	£109.99	£149.99	£139.99	£149.99	£49.99	£74.99	£84.99
PEACH	TICKET PRICE	£169.99	£123.99	£109.99	£149.99	£139.99	£149.99	£49.99	£74.99	£84.99
45% OFF IVORY/GREY	TICKET PRICE	£169.99	£123.99	£109.99	£149.99	£139.99	£149.99	£49.99	£74.99	£84.99
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# Mother-and-baby units grow as more women are jailed

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

The jailing of more women has led the Home Office to sanction a new prison mother-and-baby unit, it was disclosed yesterday.

It is also considering improving the units at Holloway, north London, and Salford, Cheshire, so inmates can keep their babies longer.

The number of women in prison has almost doubled in the past decade, putting the units under increasing pressure - even though some mothers are barred from keeping their babies in prison and others prefer leaving them relatives.

The Home Office says that only one mother considered suitable for a place was refused admission last year because of overcrowding and that for several months there were up to ten vacancies in the three existing units, which together can accommodate 39 offenders. Penal reform groups, however, think the number of women separated from their infants because of lack of places has been higher.

The Home Office said it was considering upgrading the two units housing offenders with more serious convictions, so they can keep babies until they are 18 months old instead of nine months. The new facility, to open next year, will accommodate nine mothers and babies at New Hall prison near Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

Of the 2,813 women jailed in 1988, 44 per cent were convicted of non-violent offences such as theft, fraud and forgery; and only 14 per cent of violence against the person. More than 900, or a third, were jailed for fine defaulting and 373 for drugs offences.

Seven per cent of women charged with indictable offences were imprisoned in 1988, compared with 4 per cent 10 years earlier.

Mr Paul Cavadinio, of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said there were no easy answers to whether jailed women should be separated from their babies; but he added: "The dilemma would be less acute if courts used prison more sparingly on female offenders, most of whom pose no risk to the public".

An independent survey commissioned by the Home Office reported in 1988 that babies kept in jail for less than four months - the average figure - suffered no measurable damage. Development of those who stayed longer slowed, but they made up lost ground quickly on returning to a normal environment.

Lawyers acting for Tracey Scott, the unmarried mother sent to prison with her baby by Judge Pickles on Tuesday, will go before another judge today to seek leave to appeal against the sentence.

Meanwhile, Judge Pickles made community service orders on two other unmarried mothers involved in the thefts for which Scott was sentenced to six months' youth custody. Millicent Liburd and

# Outing for the pedalling princes

JULIAN PARKER



On their way back to Sandringham House after an outing on their ponies Prince William, aged seven, pedals his new BMX bike, a Christmas present, while Prince Harry, who is five, takes a seat on the back of the Prince of Wales's bicycle.

# Free vote likely on change to Euro time

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

Ministers may allow Parliament a free vote in the next few months over whether British time should be harmonized with the rest of the European Community.

Some senior government officials think this is the only fair course given the importance and non-party political nature of the issue, which ministers, under pressure from Brussels and domestic lobby groups, feel they cannot avoid any longer.

Many MPs now support harmonization but Scottish MPs strongly oppose the move, which would bring lighter summer evenings and darker winter mornings, especially north of the border.

At present, British time is one hour behind other EC countries for most of the year.

A Home Office consultation exercise last autumn brought 3,000 replies from individuals and organizations, about 80 per cent supporting the idea.

The Confederation of British Industry, one of its most prominent advocates, says opportunities for firms, 60 per cent of whose trade is already with Western Europe, would increase, while the Police Federation says burglaries and muggings could be cut.

But supporters believe their most powerful argument is that about 160 fewer people would die on the road each year. That was supported by independent research, which found more road accidents occurred in the evening rush hour than in the morning.

However, opponents say the change would increase costs for farmers and builders, add to traffic congestion, and seriously damage the quality of life in Scotland.

Because of the far-reaching nature of such a change any proposal would need Cabinet approval.

A tentative move towards harmonization was made between 1968 and 1971 but the experiment ended with MPs and peers voting for a return to British time in a free vote.

Yesterday Mr Angus Crichton-Miller, chairman of the Daylight Extra Action Group, said: "Generally I sense an acceptance among MPs and within the Government that things have moved on a lot since 1971 and that bringing the clocks into line would have great advantages".

# Timeshare company quits trade grouping

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Barratt International Resorts, Britain's largest timeshare developer, yesterday announced that it had withdrawn from the Timeshare Developers' Association, the industry's trade association and watchdog body.

The company, a subsidiary of Barratt Developments, has six resorts in the UK and three in Spain, catering for more than 21,500 holiday owners.

Mr Doug Eaton, managing director, said it was seeking to achieve higher standards for its customers in line with recommendations it had made to the Office of Fair Trading, which is conducting a review of the timeshare industry.

"Barratt is committed to long-term and growing involvement with holiday ownership. We believe we can provide better buyer protection and improved standards outside the constraints of a developers' association."

The decision coincided with its launching of a consumers' charter, which goes further than the existing practice of the association.

The charter gives a 14-day cooling off period, full deposit refund, an ombudsman and a "real commitment to avoid high-pressure selling by ensuring that any special offers are not made available only at the point of sale".

Before Barratt's departure, the association had 28 developer members representing about 70 per cent of the British timeshare industry, and its walkout considerably reduces that representation.

The association, established two years ago to improve the industry's image and provide protection for timeshare buyers, has a five-day cooling period among its safeguards.

Last night, the association said that it and other features were minimum standards which it had sought to improve.

"We regret that Barratt have decided to withdraw, particularly at the present time when the association is in the midst of a thorough revision of its rules and regulations," it said.

"These include the enhancement of the policing of our code of practice, streamlining disciplinary procedures and possibly appointing independent people to our code of ethics committee."

# Colleges may opt for local pay deals

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

A third of Britain's 84 polytechnics and colleges of higher education are ready to abandon national pay bargaining and make local deals to end the long-running lecturers pay dispute, it was said last night.

The Polytechnic and Colleges Employers Forum, has given notice of its intention to withdraw recognition from the lecturers' union. It said colleges were free to tailor the current 8.4 per cent offer to their local needs.

Mr Roger Ward, PCEF Chief Executive, said: "Over one third of the 84 polytechnics and colleges of higher education have already proposed local deals."

"Some institutions will wish to redistribute some of the money; we have no objection to that."

The offer, worth up to 11.4 per cent to senior lecturers, phased over 18 months has been rejected by the lecturers' union, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education.

A spokeswoman for the union said last night that branches had been told not to make local deals. The union was committed to retaining national pay bargaining.

At the Southampton Institute of Higher Education Mr David Leyland, the principal, yesterday repeated his

offer of local negotiations first made last October.

He also denied NATFHE claims that his institute had told staff that it would not implement a union request for a 30 per cent increase in union dues deducted from lecturers' pay packets.

The first of a new breed of City Technology College, designed to overcome Treasury objections to their cost, is being proposed for the London borough of Wandsworth.

The CTC programme of technology based super-schools for pupils aged 11 to 18 years old, was halted in its present form in October when the Treasury refused further funding.

Although intended to be mainly funded by industry, most of the first 20 colleges will draw more than half of their start-up costs from the Treasury. So far the programme has cost the taxpayer £140 million.

The Wandsworth plan, to be debated by the council in a fortnight's time, would convert Battersea Park school, a comprehensive with falling pupil numbers, into a CTC.

Although industrial sponsors would pay for the conversion, running costs would be paid by Wandsworth. Existing CTCs are funded directly from Whitehall.

# Revolutionary vintage up for sale

SALEROOM

John Shaw

The Soviet Union is coming to Bond Street. A deluge of art from icons painted in the Middle Ages to wines from the vineyards of the tsars and pictures from a celebrated avant garde art collection will be sold at Sotheby's between April 2 and 5.

One of the most poignant lots will be 24 bottles of wine from the year of the Revolution - grapes gathered in before the fighting began in October, 1918. There are also 12,330 bottles of vintages between 1918 and 1945.

The sales cover a wide range of Russian culture. The highlight will be a group of 22 paintings by nine artists from the famous collection of Mr George Costakis, a Greek who was born in Moscow in 1912. The pictures are expected to make more than £5 million.

Although his family was cultivated, Mr Costakis had little formal education. He began collecting Russian sil-

ver, porcelain and Dutch pictures, most of which he had to sell to buy food and clothing during the Second World War. He began again with avant garde art in 1946.

He traced several artists or their relations and became friendly with them, notably Alexander Rodchenko and Varvara Stepanova.

Mr Costakis always believed the pictures belonged in the Soviet Union but hoped the government would allow him to take a small portion away when he moved to Greece. About 80 per cent of the collection was finally given to the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow.

The pictures on sale reflect the breadth of the collection and are being sold to raise

capital and further publicize the avant garde in the West. They include three major works by Rodchenko (1891-1956) the most valuable being "Abstraction (Rupture)", a canvas from 1920 (estimate £1.5million-£2million).

There is a programme cover designed by Kazimir Malevich (1878-1935), the founder of Suprematism (estimate £125,000-£150,000). It shows the programme cover for the first "conference of the committees for peasant poverty, northern region, 1918".

The collection also includes five pictures by Ivan Kliun (1873-1942) showing various periods of his work, together with eight by Liubov Popova (1889-1924), a pioneer of the Constructivist Movement. The most outstanding is "Spatial Force Construction" (1921) (estimate £1million-£1.5million).

The week opens with the sale of over 13,000 bottles of the great desert wines from the tsars' vineyards at Massandra, near the Imperial Palace at Livadia in the Crimea.

They include 1,155 bottles made for tsars between the 1830s and 1917 and some bottles still bear the imperial seal in the glass, embossed with the tsars' twin-headed eagle cypher.

The sales close with an auction of Russian art which has been in the West.

Among them is a 15th-century icon of the Dormition of the Virgin from Novgorod (estimate £40,000-£60,000) and a 16th-century professional icon painted with the ascent of Elijah on one side and the Virgin of the Sign on the other (estimate £35,000-£50,000).

There is also a 3 ft high bronze of Mephistopheles by Mark Antokolsky, the most famous Russian sculpture at the turn of the century (estimate £10,000-£15,000).

# Owning up earns a sentence discount

By Paul Wilkinson

Defendants who plead guilty in advance are being offered a third off their sentence by Sheffield magistrates.

The move is designed to avoid defendants changing their pleas to guilty at the last moment, wasting the court's time and leaving it with the bill for witnesses' expenses.

Mr John Richman, clerk to the justices, said: "I am having to list as many as 80 not guilty cases each week and the figure is rising all the time. Most people deny the charge, then change their

minds at the last minute, and when you have heard the facts, it is obvious there was no defence in the first place. If they waste as much as a day on their case, it means other cases cannot be heard."

"We are not suggesting that a genuinely innocent defendant pleads to the contrary, and magistrates will have to be careful not to push people into pleading guilty when they should be pleading not guilty," Mr Richman said.

"We need to give priority to child care cases and deal quickly with people who are in custody. These people should not

suffer through the thoughtlessness of others."

He said the discount for guilty pleas would apply across the board. "In breathalysers cases, it will not affect the mandatory disqualification, but a £300 fine, for example, would be reduced to £200," Mr Richman said.

There could well be some cases in which the discount would not be used, but it would need to be something "quite exceptional".

The Home Office commented that sentencing was for magistrates to decide.

# NHS offers bionic ear implants for totally deaf

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Bionic ear implants that will provide a special type of hearing aid for totally deaf people are to become available on the health service.

The Department of Health said yesterday it was allocating £1 million a year over the next three years to establish six centres to provide "cochlear" implants.

Mr Roger Freeman, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Health, said proposals for implant programmes would be invited from health authorities. About 5,000 profoundly deaf people in Britain could benefit.

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID), which has funded most of the UK development of implant surgery at University College hospital, London, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, Guy's hospital and the London hospital said it was "delighted" with the announce-

ment. Miss Hilary Pearce, of the RNID, said: "Patients are delighted with the operation. It makes a big difference to their lives."

"It does not restore their hearing to the levels at which you and I hear but it helps to restore their sense of sound."

Cochlear implants are intended for the totally deaf who can hear nothing or get no

benefit from even the most powerful hearing aids.

Normally, sound waves are transmitted across the ear drum to the middle ear. A highly sensitive structure of tiny canals in the inner ear, called the cochlea because of its spiral shell-like shape, is stimulated by the vibrations and transmits the signals directly to the auditory nerve

which goes to the brain, producing the sensation of sound.

In a bionic implant the cochlea is stimulated artificially or by-passed by a fine wire electrode in the ear that picks up signals from an external receiver.

The implant will help people whose deafness is caused by damage to the cochlea from such causes as meningitis, head injury and Meniere's disease.

Implants will help with lip reading, improve control of voice volume and intonation; restore self-confidence and relieve the sense of isolation; improve tinnitus - ringing in the ears.

Later this year the Department of Health also intends to start a series of pilot projects into methods of improving hearing aid services by speeding up referral from GPs to NHS hearing aid centres.

Mr John Graham, a surgeon at University College Hospital, London, who has carried out many of the 70 operations so far in Britain, said the ear implants cost between £500 and £10,000, depending on their complexity.

The surgery was straightforward and could be performed by any competent ear, nose and throat surgeon, but patients then required a year of intensive training.

Recipients all said that the sounds differ widely from those they remember before they were deafened, and are somewhat electronic - like a badly tuned radio.

Mr Graham said implants might also benefit thousands of children who were born congenitally deaf each year in Britain. Centres in the UK concentrated on adults but it was likely that implant programmes for children would start over the next few years.

# Chess at Hastings

# Nikolic well placed to extend his lead

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Predrag Nikolic, the Yugoslav grandmaster leading the premier section of the Foreign and Colonial chess tournament at Hastings, was well placed early last night to increase his lead in the seventh round of the tournament.

Taking the white pieces against the British champion, Michael Adams, Nikolic, in a Bogolyubov Indian defence, gained a pawn in the middle stage of the game for which Adams had no visible compensation.

Britain's Jonathan Speelman and the Soviet Union's Artur Yusupov, both world championship semi-finalists, engaged in a fierce struggle in a Torre attack opening. Speelman sacrificed two pawns to

establish a huge preponderance in the centre of the board. After 3½ hours of play, the situation was not clear.

Canada's Kevin Spraggett, twice Commonwealth champion, was manoeuvring to gain the advantage against Britain's Murray Chandler in an English opening, while the Russian grandmaster Sergei Dolmatov was two pawns ahead against Boris Gulko (US) after a Nimzowitsch defence opening.

Scores after six rounds, with all the games in round seven still unfinished: Nikolic, 4 points; Gulko and Dolmatov 3½ pts each; Adams and Spraggett 3 pts; Speelman and Chandler 2½ pts; and Yusupov 2 pts.

# Women drivers are gentlemen at the wheel, insurer says

By Robin Young

Women drivers are more cautious and courteous behind the wheel, setting an example to everyone, according to the Insurance Company General Accident, which commissioned a survey of women drivers from Gallup as part of an £8 million road safety campaign.

Only 2 per cent of a nationally representative sample of 1,057 women interviewed last November admitted to having been in a major accident in the previous three years,

although more than a fifth had suffered a minor mishap. Of those involved in minor accidents, 43 per cent admitted being at least partly to blame, while 38 per cent claimed that it was the other driver's fault.

More than three quarters of the women admitted that they got lost in unfamiliar areas, 46 per cent said they lacked a proper sense of direction and 45 per cent could not read maps. Nearly half tried to avoid driving in unfamiliar areas.

Some 43 per cent confessed to

getting flustered, more than a third thought themselves indecisive, and more than a quarter thought they were likely to drive too slowly or to daydream.

The women admitted also to difficulties with parking (38 per cent), joining motorways (17 per cent) and reversing (16 per cent). Almost a fifth thought parking was the most difficult thing to do with a car. Well over half (58 per cent) tried to avoid driving in bad weather, more than a third were nervous of night

driving, and 37 per cent were frightened of driving on motorways.

More than four fifths thought drinking and driving should be banned altogether, and 83 per cent claimed never to drink and drive. However, nearly half admitted to speeding, almost a fifth to jumping traffic lights, and 17 per cent to parking illegally.

Women did not think well of men drivers; 61 per cent of respondents complained of male aggressiveness on the road, and almost three-

quarters found male drivers too impatient. Asked about personal experiences, more than four-fifths complained of men cutting in, speeding and overtaking dangerously.

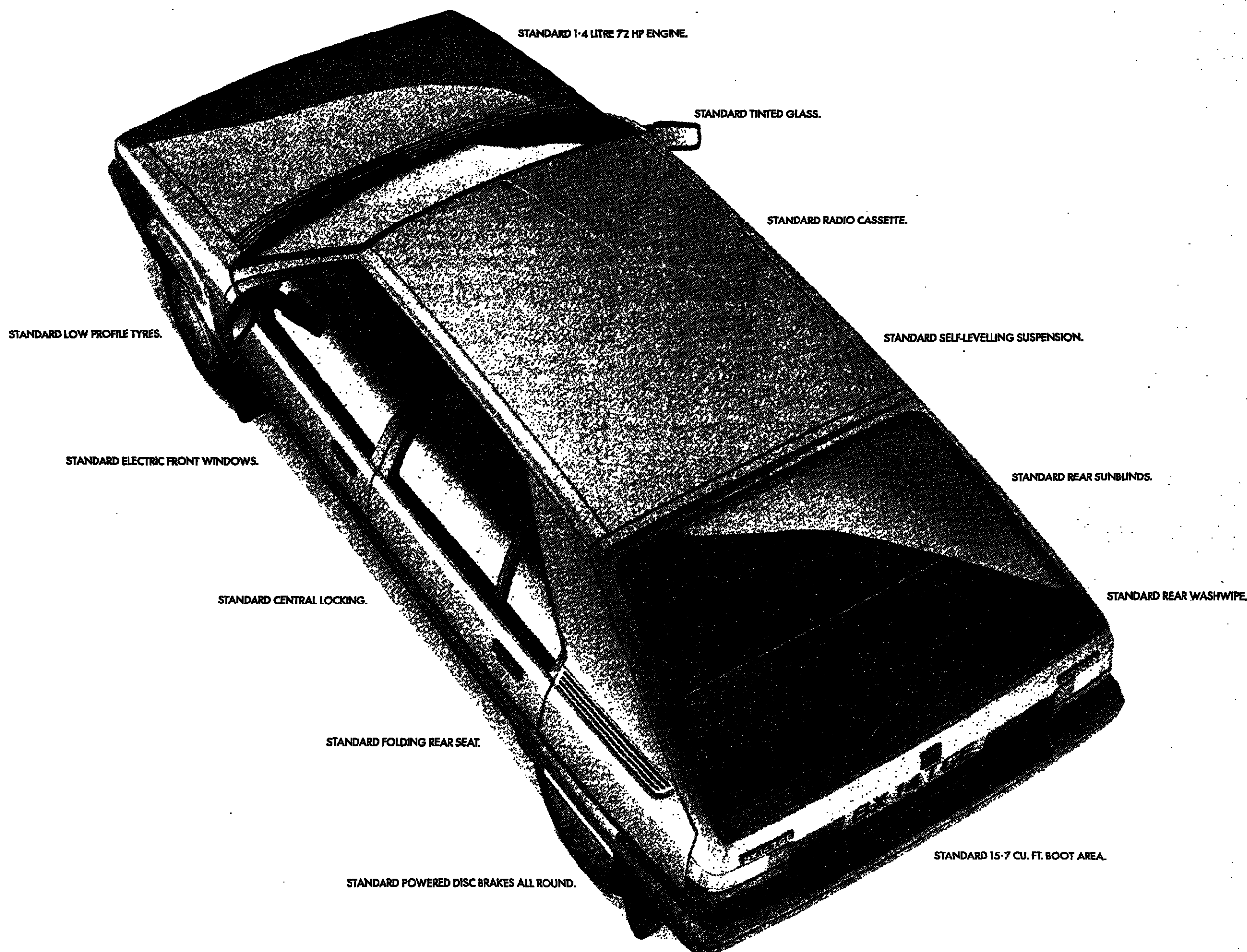
In a separate survey, 54 per cent of male drivers questioned paid tribute to the safety of women drivers.

Nearly half the women (47 per cent) passed the driving test first time, and four-fifths had no more than two tries. Only 8 per cent said they ever used the rear-view mirror for doing their makeup.

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## Elderly couple told 'they could eat out' when cooker broke

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

More than half the people seeking help from the Government's social fund have been turned down — sometimes because they were too poor to repay the loan, according to a survey published yesterday.

The unemployed, the young, the elderly and the homeless found it particularly hard to secure loans, the report by the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux showed.

One elderly couple whose cooker broke down were refused a loan because the Department of Social Security allegedly claimed they could eat out. A man in West Yorkshire who said he could not afford to eat was told to go to the local soup kitchen; and another was offered money for bedding but not a bed.

In a fourth case, a homeless boy, aged 16, who applied for a crisis loan because he was not entitled to benefit had his request refused on the grounds that he would not be able to repay it, since he was not eligible for benefit.

The cases emerged in a nationwide survey of 1,500 advice bureaux clients carried out in April 1989.

It showed that 81 per cent of the registered unemployed, 80 per cent of those under 25 and half of all pensioners were refused loans from the fund, which was introduced in 1988 to replace the system of single payments for essential items such as beds and cookers. Overall, 55 per cent of those surveyed were refused loans.

The fund had £60 million to be distributed in grants and £143 million for use as interest-free "crisis" loans both in 1988 and last year, although a further £3 million was added last month because offices had run out of money.

"As a mechanism for meeting need, the social fund is meagre, restrictive and unreliable," Mr Peter Hildrew, the advice bureaux association's assistant director, said.

But the Department of Social Security dismissed the report as unrepresentative. More than 1.5 million loans and more than 280,000 grants had been made since the fund was introduced, it said.

"Fewer than 2 per cent of social fund loans are refused because applicants are unable to repay, and fewer than 10 per cent of applicants are turned down as a low priority," A third of the pensioners who had been refused loans had been awarded a community care grant instead, the spokesman said.

The report claims that applications are mainly being refused because of lack of funds, or because applicants did not fit into local office priority lists. In 24 cases, the reason for refusal was that the person was not considered able to repay the loan.

In other cases, people were reluctant to take up social fund loans because they could not afford the repayments.

Those who did get loans often faced extreme hardship in repaying them. Nearly half of those surveyed who obtained loans were having 15 per cent deducted from their benefits in repayment instalments, sometimes on top of other debts.

A single man, needing a £120 loan for a bed, had £4.11 deducted from his income support of £27.40 for 30 weeks. Similarly, a family with two children who borrowed £400 had to pay back £10.54 a week out of their £70.30 income over 37 weeks.

The report makes a number of recommendations, including:

- Where clients are too poor to repay a loan, they should be given a grant.
- Levels of benefit should be increased to reduce reliance on the social fund.
- Weekly repayment levels should be lower than commercial loans.
- Loans should cover deposits for rented accommodation and work-related expenses.
- Benefit should be paid in advance instead of arrears.

Hard times for social fund applicants. National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, 115-123 Pentonville Road, London N1 9LZ (free with an A4 28p SAE).

## Pup with winning ways



Proud owner Mr Ralph Dunne, of Co Cavan, Irish Republic, with Raycroft Socialite, a clumber spaniel, which yesterday won the Pup of the Year 1989 contest. From a record entry of nearly 10,000 the 26 finalists competed at The Brewery, Chiswell Street, east London.

## Charity to help families 'from cradle to grave'

By Ruth Gledhill

A charity to support family life "from the cradle to the grave" was launched yesterday by the Church of England.

Higher expectations, increasing stress and confusion about values, are placing strains on many marriages and families today, according to senior bishops who are backing the charity.

The Right Rev John Dennis, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, said too many young people expected instant solutions.

Most people held on to an idea of the "ideal marriage" but when they did not conform they were too inclined to say the marriage was a failure.

He said the Church saw its role as one of supporting family life and cited the case of Sir Norman Fowler, who resigned as Secretary of State for Employment to spend more time with his daughters.

"Many people are under great stress from the work that they do. The pressures on them are very considerable. Family life often runs into difficulties for that reason."

"I welcome any public person saying he wishes to give more time to his family."

The bishop said the charity, Family Life and Marriage Education, or Flame, was not intended to compete with Relate, formerly the Marriage Guidance Council, but could help refer couples where necessary. "It is not a Church of England marriage guidance council." The charity already has 17 full-time officers in 12 out of 44 dioceses, their salaries paid by the dioceses.

Flame plans to provide training for volunteers, run regional workshops and conferences and organize a national conference every two years. It will also cooperate with other churches and work with secular groups.

It hopes to raise money from local individuals, business and charitable trusts rather than seek funding from the Church of England.

The bishop said: "We are sticking to a very firm line. The Church's ideal on marriage is that it is for life. Within that commitment the children are to be loved, supported and cared for."

"Our aim is to help that ideal become reality."

Mrs Patricia Munn, adviser for the Chester diocese, said clergymen were increasingly enlisting the help of trained lay workers to prepare couples for marriage.

She said the charity aimed to help couples to solve potential problems before they reached the point of separation or divorce. "A lot is known about ways of strengthening family ties and making them more satisfying. This knowledge must be made available as widely as possible."

The charity has grown out of the work of two former church bodies, the Family Life Education Advisory Group and the House of Bishops' Marriage Education Panel.

## Farm waste to save Amazon trees

## Paper production solution to straw burning

By Peter Davenport

Plans to build the largest mill in the world turning straw into high quality bleached paper pulp were announced yesterday. It will cost more than £300 million and consume a third of all the straw burnt each year by farmers in Britain.

Eurocell, a subsidiary of Bristol Bristar, the international food and agribusiness concern which owns British Sugar plc, formally submitted a planning application to construct the mill on the south bank of the Humber.

Leaders of the local councils involved in ruling on the application enthusiastically welcomed the decision by the company. If the application is successful and financial support forthcoming from negotiations with the Department of Trade and Industry, the plant could be operating by the end of 1992.

It would be good timing. Late last year the Government said straw burning would be banned from 1992 onwards and farmers were faced with the expensive and time consuming alternative of chopping straw into small pieces and putting it back into the soil.

The plant on Humberside is proposed to be built on a 160 acre greenfield site between Immingham and Grimsby.

At the height of construction it would create 1,500

building jobs. Once operational it is claimed the mill would provide 250 permanent direct jobs and a further 600 within the surrounding community in support services such as haulage. It would be the largest industrial investment made in Humberside, an area where 9.2 per cent of the workforce (31,000 people) is unemployed.

The mill will use 750,000 tonnes of straw a year, about a third of the 2.5 million tonnes burnt off in Britain each year and will provide a non-food source of income for the farming industry.

It is claimed that production of 300,000 tonnes of high quality pulp each year would

replace imports that are the equivalent of a third of a million acres of Brazilian eucalyptus wood pulp and would improve the balance of payments by about £120 million a year.

The mill would use a recently developed chemical processing technique which so far has only been used by a mill in Denmark.

Straw will be chopped up and blown into the mill by air where the fibres are extracted in water before being bleached and dried.

Yesterday Mr Robert Bass, Eurocell director, said: "The planning application is part of a full feasibility study by Eurocell which has received

## Poll tax rebates could mean £3bn payout, minister says

By Anthony Hodges and Nicholas Wood

Launching a £4 million campaign on community charge benefits, Mr David Hunt, Minister of State for the Environment, said yesterday that its success could cost the Government a further £3 billion.

The package of television, radio and newspaper advertising, which starts today and will last a month, is aimed at up to 10 million people who will be able to claim about 80 per cent reductions on their poll tax bills.

The "How to Pay Less" campaign will be backed by leaflets explaining who is entitled to benefit and how much, and coupons to apply for forms to claim a reduction

in community charge. On an 85 per cent uptake of benefits, that would mean the Exchequer repaying local authorities between £2.5 billion and £3 billion in income support and in making up their loss of community charge.

When the community charge comes into effect in England in April, Mr Hunt expected that those claiming benefit would almost double the number now receiving rate rebates, with about five million getting the upper limit of 80 per cent reduction.

Last night, Labour claimed that the publicity campaign would fail to reach many of those in greatest need of a poll

tax rebate because of its indiscriminating approach.

"If the money had been used on alternative methods of reaching the target audience, higher take-up rates could be achieved," Mr David Blunkett, Labour spokesman on the environment, said.

Mr Rhodes Boyson, a leading Tory critic of the mechanics of the new tax, said a national system of identity cards plugged into a computer system was needed to stop people dodging payment.

The MP for Brent North suspected that at least 10 per cent of those liable for the charge would fail to register and "go underground", leaving others to pay their bills.

## North of England Education Conference

## Teachers' jargon 'muddles parents'

By David Tytler  
Education Editor

Teachers must stop alienating and confusing parents by talking jargon even if that made life more difficult for the schools, an education conference was told yesterday.

Miss Mary Drummond told the North of England Education Conference in Newcastle upon Tyne: "Giving parents dirty paint pots to wash is easier and cosier for teachers than inviting them to tell us what the issues are and acting on them."

Miss Drummond, a tutor at the Cambridge Institute of Education, said: "The practices and conventions of everyday life in primary schools are often alien and incomprehensible to those not already in the know."

Many parents still felt unwelcome in schools, often because of the way teachers spoke to them. "There are professional barriers expressed in the form of exclusive educational jargon."

Miss Drummond said she had experienced them herself when she questioned her stepson's progress: "Professional defensiveness was wheeled smartly into place... The concept of openness arouses among other things defensiveness, mistrust and sometimes

Some examples of jargon used by teachers:

ERA — the Education Reform Act 1988, which fundamentally changed the school system in England and Wales; Education provision — teaching; Programmes of study — lessons; SATs — Standard assessment tasks — tests; Statement of attainment — school report; Record of achievement — school report; Levels of attainment — how much you know; Attainment targets — how much you should know;

National curriculum — lessons every child will be taught and on which they will be tested; Core subjects — English, mathematics, science (and, in Wales, Welsh); Foundation subjects — all the core subjects plus technology, one foreign language, music, art, physical education, geography and history; Modular studies — mix and match lessons from bits of everything; Cross curricular themes — lessons the experts cannot fit easily anywhere else such as citizenship, health and sex education; Resources — as in the cry "we

need more resources" — money; LMS — not the pre-nationalization London Midland and Scottish railway company but Local Management in Schools. This is the acronym Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education, hates most. It means to run a school more like a business by delegating more power and cash to the head teachers and governors, and taking them away from the local council; Non-contact time — time spent preparing for lessons, marking work or having a coffee; Key Stage 1 — a child aged up to seven.

downright hostility and rejection."

The recent education reforms were increasing jargon, she said. "There are teachers whose talk is now littered with the jargon of the statutory orders, the acronyms of the new bureaucracies."

"There is a need for a new wholly professional language in which teachers feel confident to articulate their most precious beliefs, their most pressing concerns. We must become noisier and more articulate, and more importantly understood."

Teachers could only achieve

this by being more honest and open with parents, the local community, even journalists. Miss Drummond, a former headteacher in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, said that when talking to newspapers teachers too often stuck to subjects free from controversy like sports days or fundraising rather than tackling the real problems facing them.

"Even among ourselves we tend to talk about more trivial pursuits than the big bad questions of curriculum — what do we teach and why?" she said.

on jargon was welcomed by Mrs Christine Maher, director of the Campaign for Plain English, who said: "This educational gobbledegook is just like social worker nonsense. Dozens of teachers have already complained to me about the amount of jargon in Government and in official circulars."

Mrs Maher, a mother of four, said that when she had spoken to teachers about her own children, she had been "blinded by science". She added: "You become totally infuriated but you don't want to seem like a dingbat."

## School memorial to playground victim

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

The mother of a boy aged 13 who was stabbed to death in a school playground four years ago was in her native Bangladesh yesterday to see work begun on a school named in her son's memory.

Relatives said Mrs Fatima Ullah had worked tirelessly on the project since her son Ahmed was killed going to the aid of a younger boy being attacked by a bully at Barnage High School, Manchester.

The 300-pupil Ahmed Ullah Memorial school is being built in the village of Bangow, in Sylhet province, after a fundraising campaign among the Bangladeshi community in Britain.

The dead boy's eldest brother, Shahed, aged 21, said: "My mother comes from that area and what happened to Ahmed triggered the idea. She wants to provide good education for children aged from five to 15 in an area often troubled by flooding. She sees it as a

living memorial to Ahmed. My grandfather, a farmer, has donated a piece of land and a lot of money has been given by the Bangladeshi community here."

Mr Ullah, who is studying mechanical engineering at Manchester University, said his father, Habib, aged 62, had suffered two heart attacks since Ahmed died and had been forced by ill-health to sell his restaurant.

Mr Ullah was speaking at a conference in Manchester to mark the launch of *Murder in the Playground*, the full report of an inquiry into the killing.

The Labour-controlled Manchester City Council, which commissioned the report, refused to publish it, claiming parts were libellous. But Mr Ian Macdonald, QC, the inquiry chairman, and his team had it published at their own expense.

Mr Macdonald said yesterday: "We

cannot provide an instant recipe for eliminating racial violence and racial harassment. That is something we are going to have to struggle with and work towards ending. But we believe our report is a useful tool."

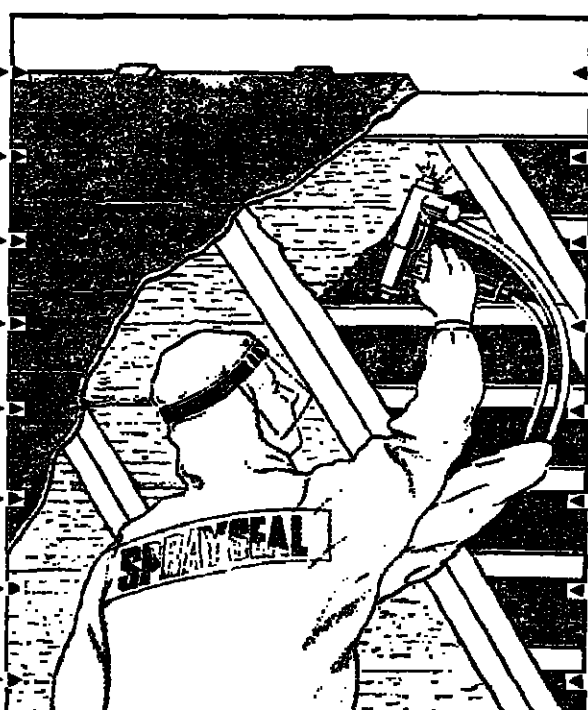
A statement by the Ullah family, read to the conference, said: "It is clear that the school was managed very badly and that black children, and Bangladeshis in particular, had been experiencing racial harassment for a long time."

The family criticized Manchester City Council for not acting over other incidents at the school before the murder, saying the pupil who killed Ahmed should have been removed from the school long before the tragedy.

The statement concluded: "We hope that people will heed the lessons of the Barnage tragedy in such a way that Ahmed's death will not be in vain."

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## Institute of British Geographers' conference

# Business couples 'underpay their nannies and cleaners'

By Thomson Prentice  
Science Correspondent

Britain's high-earning husbands and wives are creating a new servant class of lowly-paid nannies, cleaners and housekeepers, researchers said at the Institute of British Geographers' conference in Glasgow yesterday.

The return to the "upstairs, downstairs" lifestyle is marked by a mean streak in professional and business couples who pay miserly wages to teenage nannies and elderly cleaners, they said.

"The nanny or au pair, cleaner or cook is as much a part of the lifestyle of these households as the second car, the second home and the multiple holidays," Dr Nicky Gregson said.

"Conditions of employment vary but paid domestics frequently lack formal contracts, and they find their job departs radically from the initial description of it."

"They go for substantial periods without pay rises, and with no recognized means of pay bargaining, often have to haggle with their employer, at

Suspected links between chlorine in public water supplies and leukaemia must be thoroughly investigated, Dr Simon Raybould, of Newcastle University, said yesterday. He has found a connection between leukaemia rates among children under 15 and chlorinated drinking water in the Sunderland and South Shields area of Tyne and Wear.

He said he hoped that a clinical trial would look at cases of the disease and

the risk of losing their jobs. Dr Gregson, of the Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies, Newcastle upon Tyne, conducted the research with Dr Michelle Lowe, of the geography department at Reading University.

They interviewed nannies, cleaning ladies, other domestic workers, and their employers. Worst treated are "naïve and exploitable" young women who leave areas such as North-east England to take up jobs as nannies in London and the Home Counties.

analyse water consumed by sufferers. Evidence from the United States suggested that chlorine reacted with organic materials found in water, such as nitrates, to form chemicals called trihalomethanes, which could induce cancer.

Dr Raybould, of the Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies in Newcastle, said: "It is possible that something in the water is a risk factor. It requires to be investigated."

"They live in with their employers, often working for the disgustingly low wage of £65 to £85 a week. Many of these girls are totally responsible for the children 24 hours a day," Dr Gregson said.

"They live in garrets or shoe boxes, they are socially isolated and have one week-end off a month."

As soon as a nanny began to protest about her working conditions, she was putting her job at risk, Dr Gregson said. One woman had hired and fired 10 nannies in two years. The researchers counted

1,700 nanny vacancies in *The Lady* magazine in a three-month period, only 30 of which were not in the prosperous South-east.

The employers were couples with joint incomes of up to £40,000 a year or even more. They spent so much on their homes, cars, holidays and other luxuries that they grudgingly paid more to nannies and cleaners, Dr Gregson said.

Cleaning ladies tended to be middle-aged or elderly women, some aged 70 or more. "There are 70-year-old women working as cleaners at the same intensity as they would in a factory," she said.

One such woman was expected to wash and iron 10 silk shirts, wash windows, clean and tidy up her employers' house in two hours, at the rate of £2.50 an hour.

The Prime Minister has talked about a return to Victorian values but the upstairs, downstairs households of that era were probably more paternalistic and less mean than those of the 1990s, Dr Gregson added.

## Currie 'hindered cancer test'

Comments about sex, nuns and virgins by Mrs Edwina Currie while she was a health minister have put women off having vital checks for cervical cancer because they associate the condition with promiscuity, the conference was told yesterday.

A study into why women often do not keep appointments with their doctor for smear tests has shown that one reason is a remark by the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health linking promiscuity with the risk of getting cancer of the cervix.

She warned women: "Don't screw around - nuns don't get it, virgins don't get it."

Dr Martyn Senior, a lecturer at Salford University, told the conference that Mrs Currie's comments "were not helpful".

A fellow researcher, Ms Sonya Williamson, said: "If people in the public eye are saying things like that, inherent in it is the implication that cancer is associated with sexual promiscuity. It is putting

people off having smear tests."

Their study of 100 women in Manchester showed that fear of the disease was the chief problem in persuading women to have regular check-ups. But practical problems, such as illness and lack of time, were also a big factor.

Dr Senior called for more research into whether the doctor's sex and patients'



Mrs Currie: Her comments "were not helpful".

potential embarrassment were problems and for more medical information to accompany clinic invitations.

The conference was also told, by a Liverpool University researcher, that the needs of many women patients are largely unmet by their busy male general practitioners.

Women with intimate physical, emotional or sexual problems avoided discussing them with Liverpool's male GPs, but waiting lists for the city's 'Well Woman' clinics were up to three months long, Dr Maggie Pearson said.

Any woman needing treatment would be referred back by the clinics to the GP she had tried to avoid.

More than 40 per cent of patients attending the clinics were suffering from stress, anxiety or depression.

"Their stories reveal a huge iceberg of need which is largely unmet by their busy male GPs, by whom many felt belittled and dismissed," Dr Pearson said.

## Docklands transport 'is chaotic'

Transport systems in London Docklands are chaotic and threaten the scale and pace of the regeneration of the area, an expert in urban geography said.

Dr Andrew Church, of the geography department at Birkbeck College, London, blamed bad transport planning, which had been market-led and used to promote the values of wealth generation and an enterprise culture.

The results were that the Docklands Light Railway could barely cope with existing demand, let alone the extra passengers who would soon require it, while roads were heavily congested.

Planners had ignored the needs and priorities of Docklands residents and Londoners in general, while property developers were setting the order of priority for transport improvements, Dr Church said.

"Unlike the rest of London, where transport improvements have to be fitted into a crowded residential environment, the 2,000 derelict acres of Docklands represented a chance to construct a bold, integrated transport system."

"Public transport, cars, bicycles and pedestrians could all have had a well-defined role. But instead of a showpiece for the rest of London, Docklands will now be just more of the same. It has been a missed opportunity."

Dr Church has carried out research in Docklands for Conservative and Labour MPs, community groups and the London Docklands Development Corporation.

## Doctors' meningitis warning

Doctors called yesterday for a nationwide campaign to alert parents to the "frightening" dangers of meningococcal meningitis.

About 1,200 cases of this bacterial form of the disease, for which there is no vaccine, are reported a year in England and Wales, but the real figure is probably twice as high, Dr Mary Dobson and Dr Cherry Milton told the conference.

They said undue emphasis had been given to an apparent cluster of cases in the Stroud region of Gloucestershire. Their research showed similar

clusters in many other areas. "Insufficient attention has been paid to the equally disturbing impact of the disease in other parts of the country," Dr Dobson said. The illness was fatal in about 10 per cent of cases, and seemed more likely to affect children and teenagers.

Dr Dobson and Dr Milton, of the department of community medicine and general practice at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, mapped the incidence of the disease by contacting medical officers of environmental health in 260

districts. "Nobody, including the Department of Health, really knows how many victims of this disease there are or how many deaths occur from it, with any certainty," Dr Dobson said.

Some local authorities notified only 25 per cent of cases to the Department's Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre in London.

Although the disease is infectious, the ways in which it is spread are not fully understood, nor is it clear why it appears to occur in geographical clusters of cases.

## Just walking on water



Joanne Stebbings, British under-21 ladies water skiing champion, walking across Chelsea Harbour yesterday in an inflatable rubber wheel. The harbour is being used as an extension to the London International Boat Show at Earls Court, where the wheel is on show.

## 13 miners suspended for pit-face party

By Robin Young

Thirteen miners have been suspended for holding a Christmas party 2,300ft underground. The remains of their revelry were discovered during a safety inspection after the Christmas break.

Safety supervisors at Trelewis Deep Navigation colliery near Merthyr Tydfil, Mid-Glamorgan, found that the men had set up a table at the coalface and tucked into a meal of roast chicken followed by mince pies. The binge appeared to have taken place while the men were supposedly working their last shift before the Christmas break.

An investigation is in progress to ascertain if any alcohol was consumed. One allegation is that some of the men smuggled cider to the work-face in their water bottles.

"It is a matter of serious misconduct and an offence under the Mines and Quarries Act to take alcohol below ground," a British Coal spokesman said. "The men have been suspended on full pay until inquiries are completed."

The 13 miners, who were working on the development of the new coalface two miles from the shaft bottom and well away from the rest of the pit's underground workforce of 486, are to appear before the pit manager at a disciplinary hearing today to explain their conduct.

If it is found that alcohol was taken underground they could face dismissal.

## Racketeers blamed

# Video firm defies Ulster bombers

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

An international high street video leasing business has said that it has been picked out by "loyalist" racketeers in Northern Ireland after its huge expansion since July.

Xtra-vision, which is quoted on the unlisted securities market in London and is owned by Mr Richard Murphy, a Dublin entrepreneur, has opened 66 video rental stores across Northern Ireland employing 300 people. It is to open 36 more by summer.

The company, which has plans for further expansion in England and already runs a string of stores in the United States, has been picked out by

para-militaries who have bombed three of its stores since November.

Yesterday a spokesman for Xtra-vision said its recent acquisition of a number of independent video outlets in Northern Ireland had provoked the hostility of "fringe" racketeers - thought to be the so-called "loyalists" - who had been making thousands of pounds creaming profits from small operators and running lucrative illegal video copying rackets.

Xtra-vision believes the bombings are a result of orchestrated rumour that it has associations with the IRA and are an attempt to intimidate it out of the market in Northern Ireland, something it is determined will not succeed.

"There is no way that the company is going to back down," the spokesman said. "This is a £62 million international company - we are not going to let a few fringe people defeat us."

He said that while no one had been injured in attacks, the company was concerned for the safety of its staff and had taken advice on improving security from the RUC, which is conducting an investigation.

The last attack on company premises was on New Year's

Eve when a store at Bell's Bridge in east Belfast was damaged by a bomb which detonated in the early hours of the morning.

In earlier attacks, two men, one armed with a handgun, threw a hand grenade into a Belfast store after ordering customers and staff to leave on November 11. A store in Portadown was damaged on December 18 when two armed men planted a bomb in it.

In the past, mafia-style activities of paramilitaries on both sides of the community have accounted for many otherwise unexplained attacks on commercial premises.

## Prices warning as diesel cost spirals

By Paul Wilkinson

The soaring price of diesel fuel could soon start inflating costs elsewhere, the road transport industry said in a warning last night.

With the cost of diesel already higher than four-star petrol, it said it would soon have to think about passing the additional cost on.

Mr David Barnes, of the London Taxi Drivers' Association, said the association might be forced to apply for a fares increase ahead of the annual mid-summer review because of the 15 per cent increase in fuel costs since last August.

Today Shell becomes the latest of the

oil companies to increase the price of diesel up to 188.7p a gallon. Most of the other producers put their charges up before Christmas. Since last summer a differential of about 16p a gallon has been eroded.

"The question of upward price movement is bound to occur as a result," Mr David Green, of the Road Transport Association, said. His 13,500 members range from individual hauliers to giants such as Sainsbury's and ICI. "The impact of this continuing increase on transport costs is significant. At present, people seem to be able to absorb it in their costs, but if it continues to rise, they must have to consider passing it on."

Most hauliers buy in bulk and achieve

savings of 30p a gallon compared to forecourt prices. They are also able to use their purchasing power to achieve further discounts, but according to Mr Green those additional cuts became more difficult to negotiate at the end of last year as supplies dried up.

There are several reasons for the sudden shortfall in diesel supplies. A huge fire put America's second largest refinery out of action. There was increased demand from West Germany and France and a reduction in supplies from the Soviet Union.

Oil firms are hopeful that once the weather improves demand will drop and so will the price. "Conditions in the US have already improved," BP said.

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## Public library borrowing

# Cookson is author most in demand

By Robin Young

One author, Catherine Cookson, wrote almost one third of the 100 books most in demand from public libraries, according to the latest figures issued yesterday by the Public Lending Right registrar, Mr John Summison.

She had 32 titles in the top 100 books most borrowed from libraries in the year ended last June. She was followed in popularity by Agatha Christie (who does not qualify for PLR because she died before 1982) and Dick Francis.

Agatha Christie reaches the top three, calculated on borrowings to June 1988, by sheer weight of output.

Newcomers to the annual list of 100 most issued books are Virginia Andrews and Noel Barber (with two titles each), Maeve Binchy, Shirley Conran, James Herbert and Stephen King.

In all 63 authors qualify for the maximum PLR payment of £5,000 (four fewer than last year). They include well-known names such as Jeffrey Archer, Barbara Cartland, Hammond Innes and Claire Rayner, but also about a third who are not household names, such as Philip McCutchan, Sarah Shears, E V Thompson, Margaret Yorke, Brian Callison and a clutch of romantic novelists working for Mills & Boon.

Mr Summison says that this is because for these authors li-

brary sales in hardback are particularly important. "They have little income from mass market paperback or film and television rights, so for them, and for hundreds of others lower down the list, PLR is a particularly important source of income."

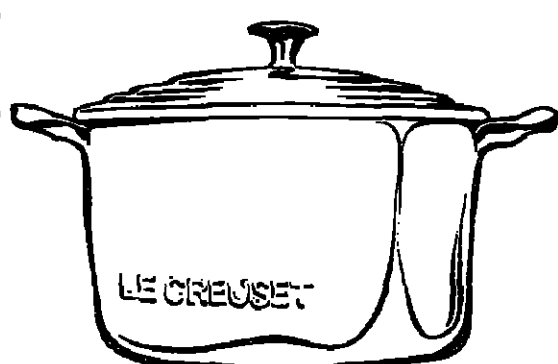
The 63 include 15 writers of romance, 14 of general fiction, 12 crime writers, eight historical novelists, seven children's authors and three war novelists, but only two humourists, one science fiction writer and one writer of Westerns. No non-fiction writers qualify. The payments are calculated this year on a reduced rate of 1.39 pence per library loan, down from 1.45 pence last year due to unchanged funding, increased administrative costs and a larger number of loans for registered books.

This year a total of 14,149 authors will receive PLR payments totalling £3,072,000 from the £3,500,000 provided by the Government, but 9,960 (42 per cent) will receive less than £100, and 3,294 authors who are registered for the scheme will get nothing.

It is estimated that 611 million loans were made by libraries in the year, of which 40 per cent qualified for PLR payment. Adult fiction accounted for 60 per cent of the loans, non-fiction for 21 per cent and children's books for 19 per cent.

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# Noriega's arrest: Ousted strongman opts for trial in US as the best option

## Dictator's full-dress surrender

From James Bone, Panama City

General Manuel Noriega demanded before surrendering that he be allowed to wear his military uniform when he left his refuge in the Vatican embassy. The Papal Nuncio acceded, and also agreed to stop photographers from recording the event.

"When a man is walking out to be judged for life, we can give him small things," said Archbishop Marcos McGrath, head of the Panamanian Church. "We can let him wear his hat."

The deposed dictator was granted two other requests also — to be allowed to surrender to an American officer of the rank of general and not to be formally arrested until he was off Panamanian soil. The arrest took place at Howard Air Force Base.

General Noriega, who had been kept in isolation in a small room at the back of the Nunciature since Christmas Eve, was also granted several telephone calls. It was not

Rome — The Vatican said yesterday that General Manuel Noriega left the Apostolic Nunciature in Panama City "of his own free will", and that Monsignor José Sebastián Laboa, the Nuncio, gave him a souvenir of his stay in the Nunciature before accompanying him to a waiting American helicopter.

immediately known yesterday whether he telephoned his wife and three daughters, who have taken refuge in the Cuban Embassy, his mistress in US custody or his lawyers in Miami.

Archbishop McGrath said the general had originally sought refuge in the Vatican mission in the hope he would be granted sanctuary in a third country.

But, after a strong letter to the Pope from Panama's 12 Roman Catholic bishops, the Vatican decided he would not be treated as a political refugee and transferred elsewhere, and General Noriega's options began to narrow.

As other people who had sought refuge in the Vatican mission began to leave, Monsignor José Sebastián Laboa, the Papal Nuncio, spoke for hours with General Noriega about his predicament. Archbishop McGrath

declined to say if the Vatican diplomat had made substantial concessions to the ousted general, who faces possible murder charges in Panama as well as the drug charges in Florida.

"The relationship between a man and God is a very personal one," he said.

The Archbishop said that General Noriega decided to give himself up to the United States when he realized that it was the best option left to him.

"To turn himself over to the Panamanian authorities in the present state of flux was not a very good option either."

The mass demonstration held by about 20,000 Noriega opponents near the Vatican mission on Wednesday afternoon hastened the general's decision by destroying any illusion he had that he was still a popular leader, Archbishop McGrath hinted.

The crowd's chants of "Justice" could be clearly heard in the Nunciature, and Vatican staff were seen on the building balconies watching the protests only 200 yards away.

General Noriega could have tuned in to the demonstration, which jammed a mile-long stretch of one of the city's main avenues, on the television set in his room.

Although the set was earlier reported to be broken, it still provided a blurred picture and full sound.

"It is not a coincidence that he decided to leave shortly after the demonstration," the Papal Nuncio said.

Journalists staking out the Vatican compound from the balconies of the Holiday Inn hotel overlooking the mission were put on alert by a flurry of rumours and unusual activity around the mission.

First word that a surrender was imminent came in the early afternoon when Italian correspondents received instructions from their newspapers' Vatican specialists not to leave the hotel.

A Black Hawk helicopter then landed in a small carpark which had not been used as a landing-pad before.

The lot was hidden from the press by the school building in front of the Nunciature, where intense negotiations between the Vatican envoy and US officials had been taking place all day.

Leading article, page 15



Arresting celebrations: A Panamanian exile holding a pineapple on a stick while waiting yesterday for the arrival of General Manuel Noriega, the deposed Panamanian ruler, at Homestead Air Force Base in Florida.

Residents of the wealthy areas of Panama City took to the streets in wild celebration, sounding their car horns, waving Panamanian and US flags, dancing and popping champagne corks (James Bone writes). "This is like our independence," said Señor Carlos Contreras, an engineer, who said he had been jailed and exiled under General Noriega. Señora Cecilia de Sere, also celebrating in the streets, said:

"Thanks to God, thanks to the gringos. Tomorrow I am going to start smiling again."

Vice-President Roberto Arias Calderón, the new Panamanian Justice Minister, said yesterday that Panama had respected General Noriega's right to choose to whom he surrendered. Dodging a question about the legality of the general being transported to the United States despite a Panamanian constitutional bar on the extradition of its citizens, he said that the general had been taken "under the authority of the US". But he added that Panama wanted him to be returned for trial on murder charges.

## General's CIA links cloud Bush triumph

From Susan Ellicott, Washington

President Bush yesterday basked in the glory of the arrest of General Manuel Noriega as the final victory of the US invasion of Panama, and a milestone in his Administration's efforts to eradicate drug trafficking.

On the horizon, however, lies the ghost of Mr Bush's involvement in the Iran-Contra scandal and threats from the general lawyers to reveal information that could embarrass the President and US intelligence officials.

Even while the general remained in the Vatican mission in Panama City, his lawyers in Florida said that their client intended to divulge details of his years as a paid Central Intelligence Agency informant if he were brought to the US for trial on charges of drug-trafficking and money-laundering.

Mr Raymond Takiff, one of General Noriega's three lawyers, said the trump card would be "embarrassing revelations" about Mr Bush, who was CIA director in 1976. There are also fears that the general could reveal secrets about US intelligence and national security.

Mr Bush must surely be prepared for all of this. The determination to bring the general to justice suggests as much, and Mr Bush has fended off questions about General Noriega's role in the Iran-Contra affair before.

Mr Bush met the general at

least twice. In 1976, they had lunch together in Washington when they headed their countries' respective intelligence services. A second meeting took place in Panama in December 1983, when Mr Bush was Vice-President and responsible for the Reagan Administration's anti-drugs strategy.

One of the general's close advisers has said the then Panamanian leader was indirectly solicited to help procure money for the US-backed right-wing Contra rebels of Nicaragua in return for the US ignoring his role in international drug trafficking.

General Noriega also met Mr Oliver North, the retired Marine Lieutenant-Colonel who was a White House adviser to President Reagan, on a yacht in Panama in 1985, in Mr North's Washington office later the same year and in London in 1986. Mr North is currently appealing against convictions connected with the Iran-Contra affair.

During the presidential election campaign of 1988, Mr Bush weathered "What about Noriega?" chants from crowds along the campaign trail and fended off questions on his role during a televised debate with Governor Michael Dukakis, his Democratic rival.

Now, the Bush Administration accuses General Noriega of being the creator of a safe haven for the Medellín cocaine cartel of Colombia. The

US has sought his overthrow for more than two years.

Mr Bush, according to close associates, grew so frustrated with the Panamanian leader's ability to outfox him during his first year at the White House that he became obsessed with the notion of removing the general from power.

President Bush said the US is committed to giving the general a "fair trial". However, some legal experts, including the defendant's own advisers, say the prosecution could be hampered by questions over the admissibility of certain evidence, national security concerns, and the difficulty of finding a jury that is open-minded about General Noriega's alleged misdeeds.

If found guilty of all charges, the general faces up to 145 years' jail and at least \$1.5 million (\$900,000) in fines. His lawyers have said he will plead not guilty.

General Noriega's lawyers also announced they intend to demand certain CIA files on the general. If the agency refuses, the lawyers intend to argue that their client's defence would be incomplete without such documents.

Mr Richard Thornburgh, the US Attorney General, yesterday expressed confidence that the US would achieve a conviction and declined to comment on the possibility of a subpoena of documents.

## Moscow hits at 'lynch law'

From Nick Worrall, Moscow

The Soviet Union yesterday accused Washington of practising "lynch law", saying that the removal of General Manuel Noriega by the US contravened Panamanian law and a trial in the US would break international law.

"It's lynch law if a country takes the law into its own hands," Mr Gennadi Gerasimov, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said.

"There are special procedures if you are dissatisfied with General Noriega."

He told an American journalist after a press briefing here: "You didn't even con-

sult the Organization of American States. You acted alone, you took the law into your own hands, which is bad. From the very beginning it was illegal for you to enter Panama."

Asked if the Soviet Union would change its view if General Noriega was tried on drug charges and convicted, Mr Gerasimov said he understood Panama had no extradition legislation, which meant that the deposed dictator had been removed in violation of Panamanian law.

The Soviet Union has no diplomatic relations with Pan-

ama, but has joined other American states in fiercely opposing the US intervention.

Mr Gerasimov suggested yesterday that the US took the step because it did not want to lose control of the Panama Canal. He also expressed outrage about Panamanian casualties in the conflict.

He added: "As your President Roosevelt once said of Somoza (the former Nicaraguan dictator): 'He's a SOB but he's our SOB'. So this particular SOB was your SOB and then he went astray and now you want to capture him."

### WORLD ROUNDUP

## Cambodia arms ban proposed

Bangkok — The Soviet Union yesterday proposed a total ban on weapon supplies to Cambodia and endorsed an Australian plan to end the conflict there (Neil Kelly writes). Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in an interview with the Vietnamese News Agency said the Australian plan, which has been widely welcomed, was "a timely initiative full of prospects".

He also said that the Soviet Union was proposing a ban on weapons for all the Cambodian factions and that the US supported the proposal. Mr Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge leader, and Mr Son Sen, the army commander, travelled to Bangkok yesterday from their headquarters near the Thai-Cambodian border to discuss the Australian peace plan with Mr Michael Costello, deputy secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra.

## Global rise in Aids

Geneva (Reuters) — Aids spread at an alarming rate worldwide in 1989, with the reported number of cases rising by more than half to more than 200,000 despite a global prevention campaign. Reports from 177 countries and territories signalled a cumulative total of 203,599 cases to the World Health Organization by the end of 1989, up from 132,976 a year earlier, according to World Health Organization data. Dr Jonathan Mann, who leads the WHO fight against Aids, said the campaign had reached a critical stage.

## French sell to Taiwan

Paris — France's already strained diplomatic relations with China are likely to take a further turn for the worse with the decision here to allow the sale of six frigates to Taiwan (Philip Jacobson writes). A Cabinet committee, apparently in response to warnings from Peking that the \$1.7 billion (£1.05 billion) deal would constitute "direct interference" in China's internal affairs, saw no obstacle to the contract for the 1,200-tonne La Fayette class vessels. The Peking massacre last June and the subsequent exile in France of Chinese dissidents have severely dented ties.

## Nakasone accused

Tokyo — Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the former Japanese Prime Minister whose financial book-keeping raised the eyebrows of prosecutors during the Recruit bribery scandal last summer, is in the spotlight again over another lucrative stock market deal (Joe Joseph writes). The *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper yesterday alleged that a share deal that netted one of his aides 120 million yen (£480,000) in one month in 1987 when Mr Nakasone was in power could be a disguised political donation.

## Fires ravage outback

Sydney — Fierce bush fires have destroyed dozens of homes and forced thousands of people to flee from rural communities in south-east Australia (Robert Cockburn writes). Strong winds fanned the fires, which had devastated more than 40,000 hectares of bush and farmland by yesterday. Seven people were reported injured and more than 40 homes were destroyed. Army units reinforced 1,000 firefighters in New South Wales as the flames threatened 12 towns from Cootamundra in the north to Albury in the south, including Canberra, the federal capital.

## Move to save sharks

Sydney — A campaign to save the great white shark has begun in the South Australian port used in the film *Jaws* (Robert Cockburn writes). Experts in Port Lincoln have reported a decline in the species' numbers and concern for its survival as more are caught by local fishermen. Port Lincoln is known to professional and game hunters as the shark capital of the world.

### Hong Kong and 1997

## Peking forces Bill of Rights changes

From Jonathan Brande Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Government is to amend a proposed new Bill of Rights that will allow it to be altered or disregarded after the colony reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

The Bill, which will allow Hong Kong people to challenge breaches of human rights in the courts, has been seen as one of the most valuable contributions Britain can make to confidence in the territory in the run-up to the handover to Peking.

It was to have been superior to other laws, overriding any legislation which did not conform with its provisions, but

proposals to give the Bill superiority and to entrench it in the Hong Kong statutes, making it difficult to amend, have had to be dropped for fear that it will simply be repealed after 1997.

The Government's original plans were thrown into disarray last month when Mr Wang Shuwen, a senior Chinese member of the Basic Law Drafting Committee, drawing up the territory's post-1997 constitution, said the Basic Law made no provision for superior legislation. The Bill of Rights would be repealed if it were incompatible with the Basic Law, he said.

It is understood that the Bill

will enjoy *de facto* superiority before 1997, in that the Government will attempt to amend any law that does not comply with it, but that it will not be entrenched.

It may, however, be changed before or after the handover by a simple majority in Hong Kong's generally compliant Legislative Council, a situation constitutional lawyers have warned would make the Bill virtually useless.

Mr John Morris, the visiting British Labour MP, said the Bill of Rights should be incorporated in the Basic Law itself, which would give it supremacy over the rest of Hong Kong's legislation. But

legislators in the colony have warned that this would be disastrous.

They say that, while Hong Kong courts have the power to interpret locally enacted laws, the ultimate power of interpretation of the Basic Law lies with the Chinese National People's Congress in Peking.

In another development yesterday, Mr Martin Lee, an outspoken Hong Kong politician, urged legislators to resign in a body over growing Peking pressure to slow democratic reform.

China wants to limit the number of directly elected members of the Legislative Council to one-third of the

total; members of the council, on the other hand, want at least 30 per cent of the chamber to be directly elected by next year, and 50 per cent by 1995.

Mr Lee said members of the Office of Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils (Omeco) — which combines the Executive Council, the "inner Cabinet", with non-civil-service members of the Legislative Council — "should seriously consider whether they should or should not resign collectively".

Mr Lee has been labelled a subversive by Peking because of his support for the democracy movement in China.

## Hurd emissaries to visit deported boat people

By Michael Knipe Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Timothy Raison, Conservative MP for Aylesbury, and Lord Ennals, a former Labour minister, leave today for Vietnam to visit the 51 Vietnamese who were forcibly repatriated from a Hong Kong detention centre 25 days ago.

The 51 were the first of about 40,000 Vietnamese refugees whom the Government plans to repatriate forcibly if they are classified as economic refugees rather than genuinely political ones.

Lord Ennals said: "We expect to see most if not all 51 of that group. We want to find out their feelings about

returning, their experiences on the journey and to find out what has happened to them since their return."

Lord Ennals and Mr Raison, both former ministers of state at the Foreign Office, are undertaking their mission at the request of Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary. He announced it in the Commons at the time of the repatriation as one of the measures to ensure that those returned were not ill-treated.

The visit is taking place amid reports that officials in Hong Kong are making preparations for the next forced deportation and that this could occur before the next meeting of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) steering com-

mittee on refugees from Indo-China on January 18.

However, Mr Raison and Lord Ennals have urged that no more forced repatriations should take place before they report back on the first one as such action would seriously undermine their mission, as well as the Government's position.

One of the widespread concerns over the Government's compulsory repatriation policy is the absence of any independent monitoring of the returnees' circumstances.

The UNHCR has declined to monitor their situation because it disapproves of Britain's policy of forced repatriation. The first group in this category, which had been

screened by the UNHCR to establish that its members did not qualify as political refugees, consisted of seven individuals and 47 members of seven families. All but one family and one individual are believed to be in Haiphong, 40 miles south-east of Hanoi.

Lord Ennals said he and Mr Raison were hoping to meet some of the 800 Vietnamese who have returned to Vietnam from Hong Kong voluntarily in three groups since March to see how well the voluntary return programme is progressing.

Lord Ennals emphasized he was not undertaking the visit in his capacity as chairman of the Asian Committee of the British Refugee Council.

## Tyrannosaurus challenged as dinosaur king

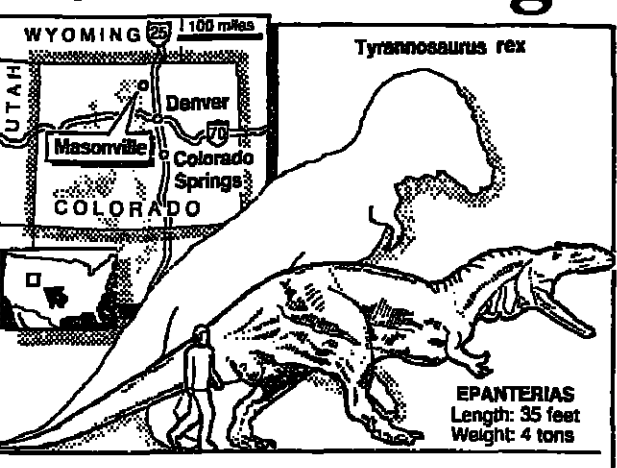
From Martin Fletcher Washington

Contrary to popular demonology, the mighty *Tyrannosaurus rex* may not have been the biggest and most ferocious predator ever to stalk the world.

An American palaeontologist has come up with a new contender, the giant *Epanterias amplexus*, which, he says, lived 30 million years before the first tyrannosaurs, was as long as *rex*, the largest of the family, and could swallow an animal the size of a cow at a gulp.

Dr Robert Bakker, of the University of Colorado, bases his claim on vertebrae, jawbones, teeth and other fossil fragments which his team has excavated from the bed of a lake, known as the Morrison formation, in Colorado.

The bones of another



*Epanterias* were discovered in the same formation in 1877 by Edward Drinker Cope, a dinosaur hunter, but their significance had not been realized until now.

Also ignored were bones of an *Epanterias* found in Oklahoma in 1932. Dr Bakker

believes *Epanterias* existed for the relatively short time of around 1.5 million years during the Jurassic period.

This was the mid-stage of the age of dinosaurs, which lasted from 195 million years ago until the start of the Cretaceous period 141 million

years ago. They were extinct by the time tyrannosaurs appeared in the Cretaceous period 30 million years later.

Dr Bakker told *The New York Times* that he believes the creatures were about 50ft long, weighed about four tonnes, walked crouched forward on their three-toed back legs and, unlike tyrannosaurs, had powerful forelimbs ending in three claws. They had teeth like daggers and their jaws expanded like a snake's.

They probably resembled a giant version of *Allosaurus*, the common carnivorous dinosaurs of the Jurassic period whose fossils are regularly discovered.

"Most experts have assumed that the allosaurs, about 35ft long, were the worst threats to the herbivores of the Jurassic, some of which were gigantic and probably

able to fend off even an allosaur. But *Epanterias* would have spelled trouble for everyone," Dr Bakker said.

The period's largest herbivorous dinosaurs, such as brontosaurs, would have been terrorized by much more formidable predators than anyone had previously realized, he said.

Dr Bakker's claims have yet to be considered by other palaeontologists but, using the three sets of bones, he intends to co-operate with colleagues in constructing a full model.

Why the *Epanterias* and other dinosaurs apparently became extinct at the end of the Jurassic period is not known, but Dr Bakker supports the view that migrations across newly formed land bridges to other continents exposed them to diseases which proved lethal.

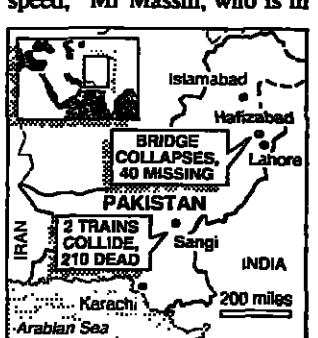
## Negligence blamed as 225 die in rail crash

From Our Correspondent Karachi

The driver of an express train involved in Pakistan's worst rail disaster in which more than 220 people died claimed yesterday that negligence was to blame.

At least 225 people died and more than 300 were injured on Wednesday night when the crowded passenger express slammed into a freight train at the rural station of Saagi. Negligence by a cabin man and a station officer caused the accident, said the engine driver, Mr Pyara Massih, who saved his life by jumping out of the engine.

"I received the clearance signal and the train was running through at full speed," Mr Massih, who is in



hospital with serious injuries, was quoted as telling Pakistan television.

"I applied brakes but because of the speed the train could not stop, therefore I could not avoid the collision," he said. An official inquiry has been ordered and the Government has suspended some of the station staff.

Railway officials said more bodies could be trapped in the twisted wreckage of the two trains, and the death toll could rise to 300. Police have not ruled out sabotage, but railway officials said the accident may have been caused by a signalling fault.

Local hospitals appealed for blood donations to treat the injured, including at least 25 who were critically hurt, in the accident near Sukkur, about 240 miles north of Karachi, on the double-track line that links Karachi to Lahore and northern Pakistan. Troops from a base near by supervised the rescue operation.

Meanwhile, 40 people are missing, feared drowned, after a canal bridge which was being dismantled collapsed near Hafizabad in Punjab province.



## THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

## East German election

# Opposition parties to forge alliance against communists

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

East Germany's main opposition parties have said they will stand together to defeat the ruling communists in the May elections.

The six groups and parties, including New Forum, the largest opposition organization, said they would work on a joint programme and agree on candidates in advance. The ticket will be known as the "Electoral Alliance 90" and will consist of a market economy platform and an as yet unspecified common line on reunification.

Herr Konrad Weiss, a spokesman for the Democracy Now group, said it was the alliance's aim "to remove the last remaining structures of the past in government".

He said he hoped the move would convince the electorate that the opposition was prepared to take on political responsibility.

Herr Weiss admitted that there would be some difficulties in preparing a joint programme from the disparate groups but said: "The differences between us are not so great - at least not as great as those with the communist party."

He accused the reformed Socialist Unity (communist) Party of exploiting fears about the resurgence of neo-Nazism for its own political gain.

The Social Democratic Party which is to share the joint platform said it was the task of the opposition to prevent the communist party regaining its dominant role. A recent opinion poll in East Germany gave the communist party 34 per cent of the vote, mainly because the population is not convinced of the opposition's competence to govern.

"The communists' leading role in Herr Modrow's Government must only be transitory," said a statement issued

issued yesterday by the Social Democratic Party.

The newly formed Green Party has refused to take part in the alliance, saying that such a conglomeration of interests will not survive the election campaign in one piece. An independent Marxist party will also fight the elections on an individual ticket.

Meanwhile, the Council of Ministers met yesterday to discuss the growing problem of Neo-Nazism in the country, with the Prime Minister, Herr Hans Modrow, promising that

he would present measures to parliament next week to control this trend.

Herr Wolfgang Meyer, the Government spokesman, said links with the West German authorities would be stepped up to prevent West German Neo-Nazi groups infiltrating East Germany.

In Leipzig and Karl-Marx-Stadt police on Wednesday night seized material and flags issued by the West German Republican Party, which is trying to set up a sister organization in the East.

Service cut Military service in East Germany is to be cut back from 18 months to a year and all soldiers are to be

in the towns of Cottbus and Beitz, near Potsdam, thousands of soldiers were still demonstrating yesterday to be allowed to leave the Army and pursue civil careers.

Morale in the military remains low. The conscripts' main complaint is their poor living conditions. Garrisons, mainly built in the Fifties, are cramped and cockroach-infested.

Another gripe is the new anti-rap towards the Army among the general population.

James Callaghan, page 14

figures add emphasis to the scale of the problem. During 1989 some 200,000 refugees were able to find jobs. But the December unemployment figure of 2.19 million still includes 258,000 refugees.

Half of these are East Germans who find it relatively easy to get jobs compared with those from countries like Poland and the Soviet Union, who often do not even speak German.

Another factor is the unquantifiable growth of black-labour from East Germany, with people crossing the open border each day to find work for low hard-currency pay and then returning home in the evening to subsidized living in the East, where their Deutschmark cash is worth up to 20 times its face value. This illicit labour market is likely to effect particularly the border regions.

The West German trade unions, led by the powerful IG Metall, claim the solution to unemployment is to reduce the working week to 35 hours. IG Metall, in fact, has lodged a claim along these lines for when its present wage agreement expires this spring.

The employers counter that this would make West Germany a less attractive place just when industry needs to prepare for the challenge of the Single European Market after 1992.

Despite the gloomier predictions, however, the West German economy seems on the verge of another boom, with industrial production up by 7.4 per cent in the last quarter and the volume of retail sales rising by 8.9 per cent in the same period.

Lord Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth, called yesterday for Jews to be consulted before any reunification of Germany took place.

In an interview with *The Times*, he said the Jews were entitled to demand international guarantees against any resurgence of anti-Semitism in a reunited Germany.

His remarks followed a mass protest in East Berlin against neo-Nazi groupings which have re-emerged since the fall of the communists. Lord Jakobovits said this indicated there were still pockets of fascism in Germany.

The changes in Europe offered historic opportunities, but there

were also dangers, he said. "So long as Germany is prosperous and the economy is stable there is little to fear, because the Germans are the first beneficiaries of European prosperity," he said.

"But should... at some future date there be a serious economic recession, leading perhaps even to bread queues, then there would be no telling what dangers may arise."

He added: "We live in a very volatile world. Should there be a major setback economically, then I think we would need very far-reaching assurances."

"No group needs greater reassurance than the group that has suffered by far the most from domination by a united Germany - the Jews."

"However grim the losses were of Russians, Frenchmen, Dutchmen and so on fighting the Germans, they were incomparably smaller than the losses of the Jews."

Moscow (AFP) - The Soviet Foreign Ministry yesterday accused East German neo-fascists of colluding with the West German far right in profaning the Soviet war memorial in East Berlin last week. Vandalism painted anti-Soviet slogans on the monument.

We lost one third of our people, six million out of 18 million."

Lord Jakobovits said he thought an international conference based on the 1975 Helsinki gathering would be called to discuss the question of reunification.

"Should there be another Hel-

## Front decides to fight Romanian elections

From Michael Hornsby, Bucharest

The National Salvation Front, the loose grouping of writers, reformed Communists and military men now running Romania, will compete for power in the elections next April, according to Professor Silviu Brucan, a member of the Front's 11-man executive bureau.

He told a press conference yesterday that the Front would put up candidates in the elections and would "fight the other political parties with all its might". However, it did not regard itself as a political party but as a "unique original product of the revolution."

The Communist Party, to which Professor Brucan and many other leading figures in the Front once belonged, was "finished" he said. There would, however, be nothing to stop members of the party who thought it still had a future from contesting the elections in its name. "We would welcome such an opponent," he said.

Asked how the Front could act both as an impartial referee at the elections and as a contestant, Professor Brucan saw no problem. He added that the Front had had no option but to assume power after the overthrow of Ceausescu because of the vacuum that he had left behind.

Professor Brucan's remarks are bound to intensify the controversy over the Front's role. When it was first set up, officials said that it would not contest the elections and that its role was merely that of an interim caretaker administration. Other political parties which have started to declare themselves in the past week fear that the Front's control of radio and television, not to speak of the backing it has from the Army, will give it a huge advantage in the election campaign.

Professor Brucan told the press conference that he was "astonished" that the editors of serious newspapers in the West could have been persuaded to print stories about a conspiracy and plans for a military coup. He described these reports as "trash" and "a monumental fake".

If he and others had been engaged in a plot over the past six months, they would hardly have wanted to conceal the fact after the plot had succeeded he said. "We would have boasted about it from the beginning."

The truth was that any conspiracy of that kind was



An old woman carrying a load of firewood yesterday, called from the debris of Bucharest houses destroyed in the fighting.

quite impossible in Mr Ceausescu's repressive police state. "The massive social explosion on December 22 was 100 per cent spontaneous" he declared.

The members of the Front met for the first time in the Communist Party Central Committee building after the dictator's overthrow. The Communist Party itself had played no part whatever in the revolution.

In separate remarks about the visit expected here tomorrow of Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Professor

Brucan said Romania had no claim whatever to Soviet Moldavia, formerly Bessarabia, which has a large Romanian-speaking population.

He said that Romania was hoping for what he called "massive" supplies of oil and natural gas from the Soviet Union to help the country through a difficult winter and keep the economy running.

Professor Brucan, who was also chairman of the Front's Foreign Affairs Commission, also disclosed that a number of Romanian ambassadors abroad, who had been found to have links with the security

police, would soon be replaced. He said the names of their replacements would be made known very shortly.

GENEVA: Red Cross officials have been allowed to visit captured members of the Securitate in Romania (Reuters reports).

A spokesman said yesterday that officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross would also visit detained relatives of Nicolae Ceausescu, including his son Nicu, a former regional party boss, and members of the Communist Party Politburo, believed to number 40 people.

## Intellectuals call on Moscow to free Moldavia

From Roger Boyes, Bucharest

A group of Romanian and Soviet-based intellectuals yesterday issued a joint appeal to President Gorbachev to set free the south-western Soviet republic of Moldavia.

The call came only days before the arrival in Bucharest of Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, to give the initial stamp of international approval on the revolutionary leadership, and it highlights some of the serious tensions between the two countries, even after the fall of Ceausescu.

KGB agents in black Volga limousines cruised down the main boulevards of Bucharest videotaping the city to make final preparations for the visit. The police and the Army have been jolted out of the calm of the past few days and are tightly controlling the capital.

At least one shooting incident was reported yesterday. Plainly, one Securitate sniper's bullet aimed at Mr Shevardnadze would put paid to Soviet-Romanian relations and the revolution would skid out of control.

Ceausescu cultivated a vehemently anti-Soviet line because it won him approval

in the West and a measure of popularity at home.

In 1940 the Soviet Union, with the connivance of the Germans, forced Romania to hand over Bessarabia and northern Bukovina. A few weeks later it lost more territories - southern Dobruja to Bulgaria and northern Transylvania to Hungary. This opened a real wound in Romania and Ceausescu, for his own purposes, scratched at it continuously.

His foreign policy - rapprochement with China, inviting President Nixon in 1969, refusing to break off relations with Israel, withdrawing from

most of the Warsaw Pact military structure, and obstructing Comecon integration - was calculated to aggravate the Soviet Union.

Yesterday's appeal showed that Romanian grievances have not disappeared with Ceausescu. The letter, drafted by a "Bucharest-Kishinev National Action Committee", declared that Romania was "divided as thoroughly as Germany. Romania has its own German Democratic Republic - it is the socialist republic of Moldavia".

The Romanians in Moldavia have suffered severely from the Soviet annexation, said

the appeal, and there was now a volcano waiting to erupt. "We call on the Soviet Union to open the borders, issue passports, issue visas for free travel between Romania and Moldavia."

With frequent demonstrations in Moldavia, Moscow is worried that there will be yet another separatist movement on its western fringes.

The Romanians in Moldavia were not eager to unite with Ceausescu's Romania. But the revolution and the declaration of a free country will have a magnetic appeal to those in the former Bessarabian territories. When Mr

Gorbachev came to power, the terms of reference changed: Ceausescu's foreign policy lost its sense, certainly its uniqueness. The gradual dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, the open bargaining in Comecon, the recognition of Israel by Poland and Hungary, and Mr Gorbachev's visit to Peking have all robbed Romania of its much-trumpeted maverick status.

They also helped to spawn the conspiracy against him in the ranks of the Foreign Ministry reformers - men such as Mr Silviu Brucan - who now play an important part in running the Romanian revolution.

Should the new Romanian leadership stake out its independence from Moscow? How can it do so without mimicking Ceausescu? The revolutionary leadership - or at least Mr Brucan, its chief strategist - seems to recognize there are new ground rules.

The latest assessment of economic performance under Ceausescu shows that almost every statistic was hopelessly manipulated. The true picture, in so far as it can be gauged, indicates a deep Romanian dependency on the Soviet Union.

## Orphans may come to Britain

By Anthony Hodges

Hundreds of children orphaned and made homeless in the aftermath of the Romanian revolution could start a new life with families in Britain.

The plight of the children has prompted thousands of adoption inquiries to the Romanian Embassy in London. The situation is still too confused for any scheme to be set up, but Mrs Anca Panter of the World Union of

Free Romanians, said that the interim Government had said it would be willing to allow the children to leave.

A spokesman at the Romanian Embassy said they had received no official statement, but inquiries were being made and the situation should be clarified next week.

The homeless children are a result of Ceausescu's anti-abortion and birth control policies as well as deaths caused in the fighting. Many

towns have orphanages to which babies born to teenage girls were taken and raised to the age of 16.

Mr Kevin Earnshaw, who spent five days in Bucharest on behalf of the Flanders Scottish Alliance, an Edinburgh-based charity, said that the number of orphaned and homeless children ran into tens of thousands. The capital has the largest orphanage in Europe with some 600 to 800 children.

## Unrest in the Soviet Union

## Iranian Azerbaijanis puzzled by nationalist wave

By Hahzir Teimourian

Since Soviet troops withdrew from Iranian Azerbaijan in 1946, leaving behind a short-lived puppet government, most of the Azerbaijanis south of the border now have an estimated 14 million strong have envied some of the cultural freedoms enjoyed by their northern compatriots.

The teaching of their language, which is of Turkic origin, is banned by the Iranian Government. Baku radio broadcasts of Azeri music and drama beamed into Iran have been extremely popular, demonstrating a high cultural development over the border.

Thus there is puzzlement at the desire of some northern Azerbaijanis to rejoin Iran after a break of 162 years. "It

is a case of nationalist sentiment overcoming reason," an Iranian Azerbaijanis said. "The northerners have felt the political oppression of Bolshevik rule for so long that they feel no other system could be worse."

The sense of oppression among the estimated 55 million Soviet Muslims living in the Transcaucasus and Central Asia is indeed strong. According to Professor Tayer Tayerof, an Uzbek member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Moscow, the rural parts of the huge region suffer "widespread youth unemployment and unbelievable poverty" while the industrialized parts are heavily polluted.

A recent visitor to London from the region said many

deformed babies were being born in Kazakhstan owing to chemical contamination of rivers, while the official media stayed silent. Perestroika had not reached the region and an



Iron Curtain was firmly in place there.

"Soviet rule has for seven decades cut us off from a thousand years of our history by trying to make us look towards Europe rather than

the Islamic south. People are now making a point of sending their children to Koranic schools - even Communist Party officials."

Tehran has made known its displeasure at the thought of any direct link with seven million liberated Soviet Azerbaijanis. Although the Iranian media have maintained a stony silence, Soviet reports say Iran protested about the attacks earlier this week on Soviet border posts.

The area populated by Azerbaijanis - bordered by the Caspian Sea, Russia, Soviet Georgia, Soviet Armenia, Turkey and the Iranian province of Kurdistan - has been fought over for centuries. It has been invaded by, among others, Persians, Arabs, Mon-

gols and Turks. In the early nineteenth century, Tsarist troops conquered the northern part of Azerbaijan, bringing the territory north of the Araks River into the Russian Empire. The territory enjoyed a brief period of independence from May 1918 but was reconquered by the Red Army in 1920.

The Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, covering about 33,000 square miles, includes the Nakhichevan autonomous republic, an enclave between Soviet Armenia and the Iranian border. It also contains the largely Armenian-inhabited Nagorno-Karabakh (district) of Nagorno-Karabakh, where ethnic conflict has flared for almost two years.

Leading article, page 15

## Chief Rabbi sees threat of anti-Semitic revival in reunited Germany

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

Lord Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth, called yesterday for Jews to be consulted before any reunification of Germany took place.

In an interview with *The Times*, he said the Jews were entitled to demand international guarantees against any resurgence of anti-Semitism in a reunited Germany.

His remarks followed a mass protest in East Berlin against neo-Nazi groupings which have re-emerged since the fall of the communists. Lord Jakobovits said this indicated there were still pockets of fascism in Germany.

The changes in Europe offered historic opportunities, but there

were also dangers, he said. "So long as Germany is prosperous and the economy is stable there is little to fear, because the Germans are the first beneficiaries of European prosperity," he said.

"But should... at some future date there be a serious economic recession, leading perhaps even to bread queues, then there would be no telling what dangers may arise."

He added: "We live in a very volatile world. Should there be a major setback economically, then I think we would need very far-reaching assurances."

"No group needs greater reassurance than the group that has suffered by far the most from domination by a united Germany - the Jews."

"However grim the losses were of Russians, Frenchmen, Dutchmen and so on fighting the Germans, they were incomparably smaller than the losses of the Jews."

Moscow (AFP) - The Soviet Foreign Ministry yesterday accused East German neo-fascists of colluding with the West German far right in profaning the Soviet war memorial in East Berlin last week. Vandalism painted anti-Soviet slogans on the monument.

We lost one third of our people, six million out of 18 million."

Lord Jakobovits said he thought an international conference based on the 1975 Helsinki gathering would be called to discuss the question of reunification.

"Should there be another Hel-

sinki conference... then I think there ought to be a chair for a Jewish spokesman," he said. Such a conference would enable the Soviet Union, Poland, France and other directly affected countries to ensure that a reunited Germany was democratic.

"Alongside that - the guarantee of democracy - there should be guarantees, now devised and written in, that in no circumstances would any form of racial discrimination or anti-Semitic propaganda be tolerated," he said.

The slightest show of anti-Semitism would be taken as a breach of international agreements. It will be no argument for them to say, "This is an internal matter for us."

Lord Jakobovits said it was

essential to obtain the guarantees before reunification because economic circumstances might change later.

"If you wait for an economic breakdown, it will be too late. We must not allow the seeds to be sown now," he said.

"We are dealing with a successor generation who may not even remember the Holocaust. There are some who deny the Holocaust altogether," he said.

It should not be thought that only the 30,000 Jews still living in West Germany, and the smaller number in East Germany, would be affected if anti-Semitism were to go unchecked, Lord Jakobovits argued. There was a risk that, if there were some future economic slump in a reunited Germany, the

country could act as a breeding-ground for anti-Jewish feelings throughout the world.

While most commentators had been surprised by the speed of the changes in Eastern Europe, Lord Jakobovits said he had expected them 10 years ago, when it first became clear to all that communism had failed to deliver its promises.

He said that Dr Julian Jakobovits, his son, who lives in Baltimore, Maryland, was told by many people during a visit to the Soviet Union that the Chernobyl disaster of 1986 had served as a catalyst. It undermined their faith in a society based on technology without human values. "They told him that when it blew up, their god went with it."



Lord Jakobovits: "No telling what dangers might arise."



THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

# Poland backs Prague plan for break-up of Comecon

From A Correspondent, Warsaw

Mr Vaclav Klaus, the new Czechoslovak Finance Minister, told *Rzeczpospolita*, the Warsaw daily, yesterday that Poland supported his Government's plan to propose the dissolution of Comecon, the East bloc's equivalent of the European Community.

The paper said that Czechoslovakia would propose the disbanding at a Comecon meeting in Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, next week.

"Czechoslovakia is of the opinion it is necessary to disband Comecon," the newspaper quoted Mr Klaus as saying. "Of course, I would like something else to emerge in its place, but only on condition that modern changes will be proposed by the participants of the meeting."

Mr Klaus said he had had talks with Mr Leszek Balcerowicz, the reform-minded Polish Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, who had agreed to support the plan. "We reached an understanding for most of our proposals," he said.

Comecon was formed in 1948, with its headquarters in Moscow. Its members are the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, East Germany and Romania, together with Mongolia, Vietnam and Cuba. The general conviction has been that the development of Eastern bloc economies was subjected to Soviet interests. In recent years, when East European countries needed Western cash to revitalize

their economies, they have begun to sell inferior goods to one another, saving their best products for export to the West.

Mr Klaus said Czechoslovakia felt so strongly about the matter that it would unilaterally withdraw from the organization if its proposal were not approved.

On the subject of bilateral agreements, Mr Klaus told the newspaper that Poland and Czechoslovakia were ready to establish closer relations.

Several Polish parliamentarians yesterday went further, according to the official news agency, suggesting that Poland should seek federation with Czechoslovakia.

"This would create a balanced situation in Europe through the formation of a new strong political organism," Mr Stanislaw Stompa, a deputy representing Solidarity, was reported as saying. He was supported by four other members of the parliamentary foreign affairs commission.

Taking up the theme, *Rzeczpospolita* said in a front-page editorial that Czechoslovakia, under President Havel, should become Poland's main partner. "A closer co-operation between Czechoslovakia and Poland, together with some institutional forums, seems to be highly sensible in view of the future unification of the Germanies," the newspaper said.

The references to closer relations echoed the suggestion made by Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, the former United States National Security Adviser, who on Tuesday told the Voice of America broadcasting organization that Poland and Czechoslovakia should form a federation to protect themselves from the Soviet Union, on one side, and a reunited Germany on the other.

## EC seeks to widen aid to East bloc

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

A senior European Community official is to visit Prague, Sofia and Budapest within the next 10 days to assess what the Twelve can do to underpin the revolutionary changes there.

Mr Frans Andriessen, the Commissioner for External Affairs, will discuss existing agreements with the EC and the need to broaden these to give Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania similar help to that now being offered to Poland and Hungary.

Yesterday EC officials briefed the 17-member European Commission on their four-day visit to Bucharest at the end of last year. The Commission spent the day debating the sweeping changes in Eastern Europe.

Shortly before the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu, Brussels suspended the 1980 trade agreement with Romania in protest at repression there. This suspension will now be lifted, and the EC is

ready to offer substantial extra short-term and long-term help to relaunch the economy.

The community has sent emergency aid worth 6.5 million ecus (£4.77 million) to Romania already. Most of the medical aid has arrived, and food aid is being sent gradually, at a rate of 60 lorries a month. Poland has received or been promised 130 million ecus in aid.

The EC already has an ordinary trade agreement with Czechoslovakia, but the new Government there wants to transform this into a more far-reaching treaty modelled on one signed by the Soviet Union last month.

Negotiations for a trade and co-operation agreement with Bulgaria began last spring but were interrupted. They are likely to resume soon.

The Commission is also to begin talks with East Germany within weeks on a similar wide-ranging agreement.

## Sudan 'massacre'

Nairobi (Reuters) — Sudanese rebels said yesterday that more than 2,000 people had been killed in a central Sudanese town last week in what they termed a massacre by local militia forces, which were recruited and armed by the Khartoum Government. The radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army denied statements by the authorities in the capital that only 200 had died in clashes in el-Jebel.

### Court delay

Khartoum (AP) — The Sudan Supreme Court adjourned for two months hearings to decide if five Palestinians convicted of murdering five Britons and two Sudanese in a bomb attack on a Khartoum hotel in 1988 will escape the gallows by paying 'blood' money to their victims' families.

### Fiji army aid

Suva (AFP) — Britain is to drop an informal ban on military aid to Fiji and has agreed to send an army officer to help with military training.

### Bongo marries

Brazzaville, Congo (AP) — President Bongo of Gabon, aged 54, has married the 27-year-old daughter of President Nguesso of the neighbouring Congo.

### Tambo spasm

Stockholm (Reuters) — Mr Oliver Tambo, aged 72, the South African nationalist leader, arrived at a Swedish clinic for treatment after a brain spasm, police said.

### Oil respite

Rabat (Reuters) — Pollution experts said calm weather had lifted the threat of oil damage to Morocco from the crippled Kharg-5 Iranian supertanker.

### Ban lifted

Manila (Reuters) — The Philippines has lifted an entry ban on a Soviet woman who staged a hunger strike at Manila airport after arriving without a visa from Bangkok, allowing her to be reunited with her Filipino diplomat-husband and daughter.

### Missiles find

Athens — Greek security services were investigating possible terrorist links with the discovery near Mount Olympus of four portable anti-tank missiles believed stolen from military stores in Cyprus.

### Off the menu

Mbabane (Reuters) — Swaziland is to deport a jailed self-confessed Moroccan cannibal who had been demanding the bodies of road accident victims for his meals.

## Magdeburg police demonstrate for pay increase



Police officers protesting for better pay, longer holidays, shorter military service and more democracy in the East German city of Magdeburg yesterday.

## Bulgarian protesters deliver ultimatum

Sofia (Reuters) — About 10,000 Bulgarians demonstrated outside the National Assembly yesterday threatening a general strike and demanding the Government resign over its decision to restore civil rights to ethnic Turks.

Carrying anti-Turkish banners and Bulgarian flags, the demonstrators converged on the capital from two predominantly Turkish regions in southern and north-eastern Bulgaria. "Resign, resign!" the crowd chanted as hundreds more arrived in buses and cars to lend their support.

Bulgaria's ruling Communist Party decided last week to end decades of assimilation, giving the Turks back their ethnic names and allowing them to practise Islam. The demonstrators said that unless the Government responded to their demand to rescind the decision by last night, they would call a general strike today.

The question of the rights of the 1.5 million ethnic Turks and 200,000 Bulgarian Muslims has plagued the country's new leaders since the ousting of hardline President Zhivkov last month.

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# On the Vatican's secret service

General Noriega's peaceful departure from the Vatican embassy in Panama highlights the quiet influence of the Holy See which, in diplomatic terms, is now among the leading world powers. Clifford Longley reports

But they are Americans... one papal diplomat remarked recently, sadly shaking his head at the vulgarity of United States tactics outside the Vatican embassy in Panama City after Christmas. If there is one thing the papal diplomatic service is jealous of, it is its dignity. Short of having naked dancing girls in the street outside, it is difficult to imagine a less promising approach than pop music blaring from US army loud-speakers. When the music stopped, the Americans got their man.

Papal diplomacy is so dignified, in fact, that the Vatican never asks, nor even officially suggests, that it and some friendly governments might open diplomatic relations. The asking has always to come from the other side, on the grounds that a request from the Holy See itself would be demeaning.

For all this dignified reticence, more than a hundred states have done so — and the list grows longer all the time. World diplomacy is one of the Vatican's major industries. And nuncios, as many fugitives had realized before Noriega, are excellent places to seek sanctuary. After the overthrow of Allende in Chile the nuncio there provided shelter and safe conduct for dozens of left-wing refugees fleeing from the vengeance of the army.

All papal diplomats have the first duty, at least in theory, of representing the Holy See to the local Catholic community. Pope Paul VI declared that it was "the primary and specific mission of the Pontifical Representative" to "render even closer and more operative the ties that bind the Apostolic See and the local churches." But it was he who also added ecumenical relations, and the advancement of peace and justice to the more traditional aims of papal diplomacy.

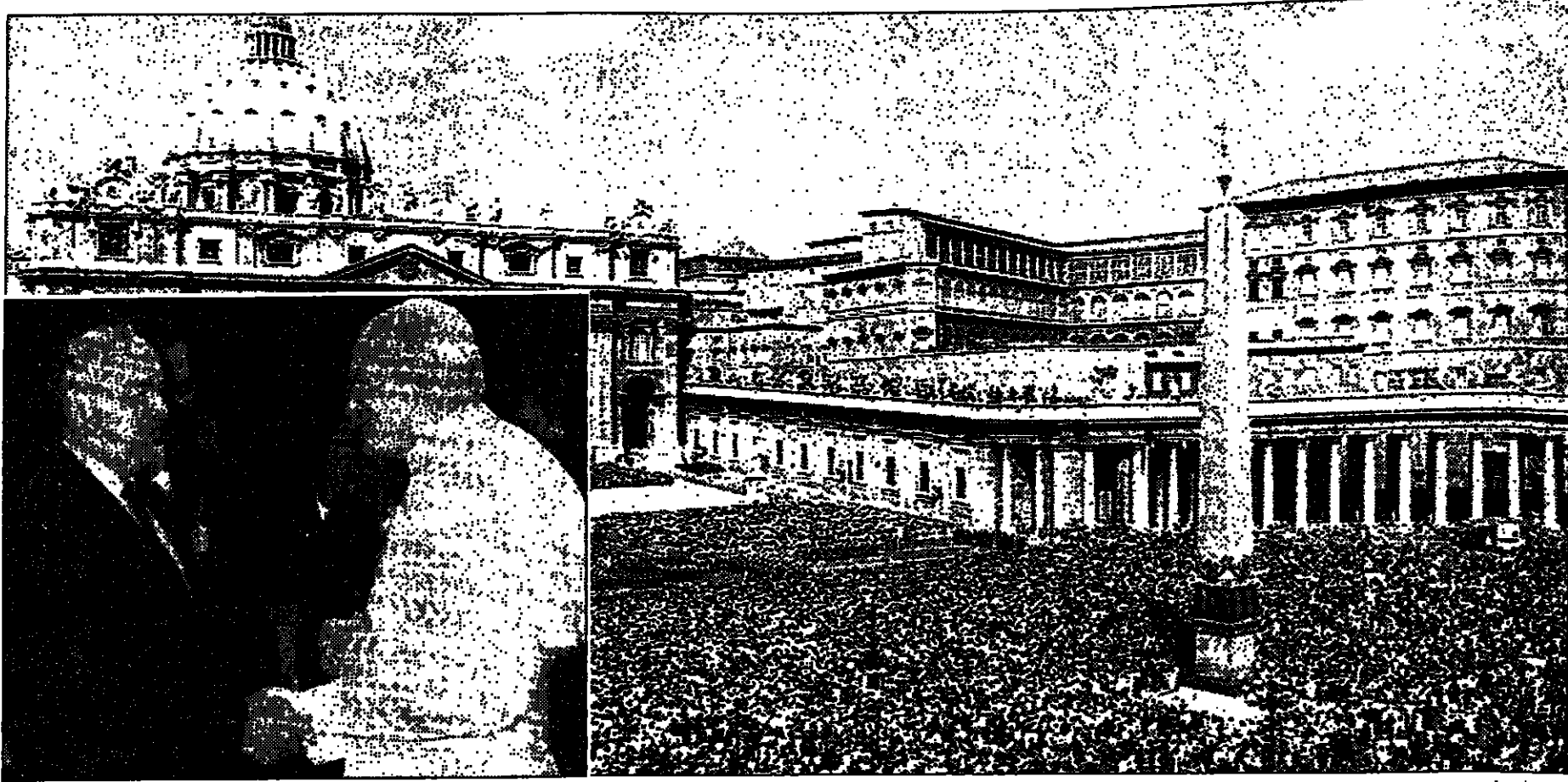
Papal diplomacy is growing. In recent years the US has joined

Britain in establishing full relations and at their recent meeting, President Gorbachev and Pope John Paul II agreed to open formal relations between the Vatican and the Kremlin, which must make some claim to being the least expected development in world affairs of the entire decade. Poland has already established full relations, and a number of other Eastern European countries are working towards it. It has become, in those contexts, an ultimate badge of true sovereignty and world recognition.

Nor are such relations judged marginal. There are few things the Israeli government would like more than to have full relations with the Vatican, as its spokesmen, and world Jewish bodies outside Israel, frequently remind it. The Vatican's official reason for holding back is that Israel does not have secure borders guaranteed by international treaty, but it is universally held in the Jewish community that the real reason is the fear of offending Arab interests. Many Muslim states are already accredited, and there is a sizeable Catholic population among the Palestinians and Lebanese.

In terms of its diplomatic strength, activity and authority, the Holy See is now among the leading world powers. As well as states and governments, it is fully accredited to more than a dozen international agencies, entities which exist in international law as sovereign bodies though not quite as states do, including such unlikely bodies as the International Atomic Energy Agency. There are Vatican ambassadors to the European Community and the United Nations, and it is a full signatory of the Helsinki Agreement.

Nevertheless, even in the Roman Catholic Church there is an undertow of criticism of the splendour of these arrangements, which surfaced at the Second Vatican Council 25 years ago and which tend to make the Vatican a



St Peter's and the Vatican: the faithful crowds flock to see the Pope, but growing powers of papal diplomacy stretch throughout the free world and the rapidly crumbling eastern bloc.

little defensive, even with its own flock. This is hardly surprising, as the theory behind them is somewhat confusing and obscure.

Critics say that it symbolizes an unhealthy centralist tendency in the Roman Catholic Church by unduly stressing the primacy of Rome over the local Catholic churches. The standard — and diplomatic — reply to such criticism is that the Vatican's diplomatic role is frequently misunderstood. But, rather like the legal establishment of the Church of England and the position of the Queen therein, it is there because it is there, not because it is easily justified.

It goes back a very long way, and some diplomatic historians credit the Holy See with having invented the whole concept of international diplomacy and international law. Medieval states did sometimes receive and send representatives to their neighbours, for whom immunity from arrest and imprisonment was granted even when they were at war, but it was the Papacy which

**'Today the Vatican maintains a diplomatic staff college where all its new diplomats are trained'**

first established the practice of basing representatives permanently abroad, turning temporary immunity into a permanent status.

Sometimes the task was undertaken by a local churchman — Cardinal Wolsey was for a while a papal legate. But gradually a professional corps came into being, and other countries began to realize the value of such an approach. Today the Vatican maintains a diplomatic staff college where all its new diplomats are trained, and, as other diplomats

are quick to recognize, its graduates are very good indeed if somewhat underpaid. They are still invariably ordained, usually with the nominal status of archbishop, though nothing in the theory says they have to be.

At the Congress of Vienna after the Napoleonic War, papal nuncios were automatically granted seniority over all other diplomats with the right to assume the role and title of Dean of the local Diplomatic Corps — the spokesman of all accredited diplomats to the state in question, on any matters of protocol which touched them all.

It is undoubtedly useful to have the duties of dean entrusted to the representative of a power with little or no political axe to grind; and useful to the Vatican too. The Apostolic Nunciature in Panama skillfully used his position as dean to gain the support and sympathy of all the other diplomats in Panama in his dealings with the Americans. And though it was the Panama nunciature which was in the spotlight, the key role in

defusing an unpleasant confrontation must surely have been played by the pronunciatore in Washington, and the United States Embassy to the Holy See in Rome. If these bilateral dealings needed outside support, then with its nuncios as diplomatic deans in virtually every other country in Latin America the Vatican was powerfully placed to arouse continent-wide pressure on the US to behave itself.

Britain and the US have politely declined to follow the Vienna convention of granting the Holy See diplomatic seniority, and this fact is technically recognized by describing the papal ambassador in those two countries as the "pronuncio". In both cases the opening of full diplomatic relations with the Vatican was judged a delicate move — in Britain because of the unique legal status of the Church of England, in the US for the opposite reason, the constitutional separation of church and state.

Diplomatic recognition of the Holy See is not quite the same as

official recognition of the Roman Catholic Church, however; nor is it merely recognition of the sovereignty of the Pope over the territory in Rome called Vatican City. It belongs in a class of its own. Between the collapse of the papal states in the 1870s and the Lateran Treaty signed with Mussolini, Vatican City was not officially recognized by anyone, while the abstract international entity called the Holy See certainly was — and papal diplomacy went on uninterrupted.

In the First World War Britain sent an accredited Minister to the Vatican as a useful listening post, and judged it a measure well worth while. The Vatican was a major international centre for diplomatic dealing in the Second World War, and Allied diplomats, in the heart of enemy country, greatly valued their full immunity and the range of unofficial contacts it brought them.

It is not a diplomat's job to be visible — until, that is, a fleeing dictator knocks on the door, with the entire US army on his heels.

## Why twitchers are Morocco-bound

This weekend, eight of the country's more experienced "twitchers" will fly to Morocco to sit by a lake south of Tangier and stare at a small, dowdy bird.

Twitchers are birdwatching's most obsessive exponents. Effectively on call around the clock, they will take time out from their professional lives, grab their binoculars and go anywhere — at no small expense — at the first hint of the avian world's more extraordinary and elusive prizes.

In February last year, an American Golden-Winged Warbler, blown by storms over the Atlantic, strayed to a parking lot behind Tesco's in Maidstone, Kent. Within three days more than 1,000 twitchers had tramped to the store to see it.

The Moroccan sands are, perhaps, no better known for such prizes. But for an original member of Britain's first rare bird "hot-line" and the landscape gardeners, accountants and business executives who make up the Moroccan party, they assume significance as the winter residence of one of the world's dying species, the Slender-Billed Curlew.

For decades, ornithologists identified the Slender-Billed Curlew, which looks virtually identical to its common European counterpart, as a migrant to Europe and North Africa from its summer breeding grounds in Eastern Siberia. As many tried and failed to locate

its Siberian home, excitement grew three years ago when enthusiasts found several pairs in a Moroccan lake. Leading twitchers from around the world flew in. The flock shrank. This winter welcomed just three birds, one of which has since disappeared.

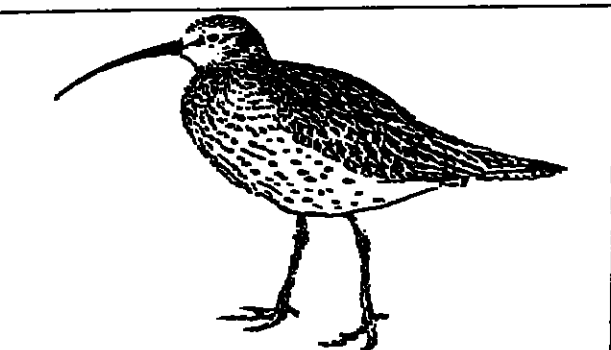
"Nobody really knows why the birds have declined or if there is an undiscovered population somewhere. They are pretty much an unknown species," explained Richard Millington, one of the founders of the hotline. For him and his companions, a glimpse of the elusive curlew will be the zenith of a year of furious activity.

"My emotions will be running high. The whole point of seeing a rare bird is the relief that you have actually seen it. The first reaction is to think 'Thank God, I've just flown all the way here and I've seen it'... quickly superseded by a feeling of elation."

The past 12 months have been good for him. The inspiring sense of relief has been pleasantly frequent. Having witnessed the Tesco sighting, the group managed to charter planes to Fair Isle, to the migrant-infested Scilly Isles ("never had any problem filling 'em"), and was one of thousands to be privy to the sighting of the Red-Breasted Nuthatch in Norfolk.

The British isles are suddenly abounding with rare birds. In 1988, no fewer than 10 newcomers were recorded. A particularly hardy Tris-

**There is a rare breed of bird-watcher who will do anything, and go virtually anywhere, to see a rare breed of bird**



Twitcher's target for this weekend: the Slender-Billed Curlew

tram's Storm Petrel even managed to reach Cornwall on an excursion from the South Pacific.

One explanation for the increase, put forward by Dr Tim Sharrock, managing-editor of *British Birds* magazine, is that bird populations and ranges have changed far more substantially and quickly than anyone previously imagined. Whether this is due to long-term food shortages after ecological disturbances at home or simply a series of freak weather conditions is unclear.

But members of ornithology's official home — the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds at Sandy, Bedfordshire — has offered additional theories. According to Adrian

Darby, chairman of the society's council, the increased number of sightings is in direct proportion to the increased number and sophistication of those watching — a phenomenon which has on occasion ruffled a few of the society's feathers.

In general we try to accommodate twitchers if we can," Darby says. "But I know wardens of our reserves think it a nuisance if a huge influx of them suddenly appears when a rare bird arrives. But then, they get pretty excited themselves."

Two years ago, the RSPB issued a statement warning that the scarce Cirl Bunting was likely to become scarcer as

the result of birdwatching "pressure" in the south-west of England.

Millington concedes his 24-hour "birdline" may have helped trigger an explosion in birdwatching, but its technological revolution would still have continued apace. Connected by a system of Vodaphones, CB radios and personal invitations he and other diarchers can now swoop on key arrivals with ease.

Millington claims that the group is self-policing. "If you don't behave the bird will either fly away or you won't be told about the next one."

The birds are often less reliable. Last year an Australian Great Knot landed in the Shetlands. Millington chartered a flight, called up a dozen or so acquaintances who arrived with telescopes extended, only to see the bird fly off — homewards — as they appeared.

The stakes have risen. Increasingly desperate for their sightings to be accepted by the all-powerful British Birds Rareities Committee, fanatics have resorted to a series of less-than-ingenious hoaxes.

In recent years, the elected committee of "10 rare men" has been forced to dismiss a photograph of a Siberian Thrush after the subject was found, stuffed, in a Gloucestershire field. An equally inanimate Night Heron fooled watchers for hours when it was stuck in a tree in Northumberland.

But away from the con-

trovery, at his home in Cley in Norfolk, situated by one of Britain's prime sites for weary and utterly lost foreign birds, Millington looks back with some satisfaction at his life as a twitcher. He was just 15 years old when he first "twitched".

It was 1969 and he had been a wide-eyed enthusiast for three years. "Somebody asked if I wanted a lift down to Portland Bill to see a Desert Warbler and I just said yes."

Since then he has seen 453 of the 550 or so species of bird known to have bred, landed or simply collapsed on the British isles (he points out that at least one, the Great Auk, has become extinct during his lifetime). But the target is moving. At the present rate of arrivals, Britain is likely to claim up to 600 species by the end of the century.

Although, domestically, he is a "top-lister": one of the few who have seen more than 400 species in Britain — internationally, he remains something of a fledgling. The legendary Stuart Stokes, an English businessman living in America, is the world's premier top-lister. The single-minded Stokes has taken it upon himself to see at least 7,000 of the planet's estimated 9,000 bird species.

Millington pauses in admiration. "After all," he muses philosophically, "it's only a small planet with a finite number of birds."

Tom Giles

## Crosswords answers

These are the answers to yesterday's reprinted Times Crossword Puzzle No 9, as well as the special 60th anniversary puzzle.

U	M	A	K	E	S	H	I	F	T	L
E	L	B	O	W	X	E	A	U	G	U
T	C	A	S	T	A	N	E	T	S	C
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H	O	A	R	C	A	M	E	G	Y	P
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C	A	R	V	E	A	N	N	F	I	N
Q	I	D	E	N	T	I	C	A	L	G
R	U	L	E	D	G	A	I	S	S	E
E	W	A	T	E	R	C	U	R	E	E

## Different stations

Tomorrow in *The Times* Ray Connolly talks to a man who, after a childhood spent partly in China — from which his family had to flee when the Japanese invaded Shanghai — went on to serve in the army during the Second World War, play Hamlet at Oxford University and, eventually, run British Rail. Sir Peter Parker is the businessman who still thinks he could have had a career as an actor...

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# NOW'S THE TIME TO GIVE YOUR WIFE THE BOOT.





# Challenge of a new mistress

Sandra Howard, wife of the new Employment Secretary, has no doubts about the other love in her husband's life — it's politics. But, she tells Brian James, 'I don't feel cheated'

For a woman whose husband had just taken on "a new and much more challenging mistress", Sandra Howard remained remarkably poised yesterday as her answerphone filled up with calls from journalists asking how she felt, as she cleared away the mess from an unscheduled teenagers' party, darned trousers for her son and prepared to shift — for the second time in two days — the entire family, including the hamster, to another home 100 miles away.

The "new mistress" was her own description of husband Michael Howard's promotion to Cabinet rank as Secretary of State for Employment. Although deeper entanglement with HMG does not pose the same threat that term conventionally implies, nevertheless the man Howard replaces had given the destruction of his family life as his reason for saying "no more".

As we had been invited to feel sorry for the Howards, did Sandra Howard in any sense feel herself a likely object of pity? "Oh, absolutely not. Politicians are not conscripts: they know what they are getting into, and accepting the penalties the job imposes upon them is a decision they have already taken."

"In the Howards' case he had carried responsibility for a great many years. But we have not been involved so long, our children are older, Michael has had the pleasure of their

youngest years... we feel we shall cope."

Politicians may not be conscripted, but their families certainly are. Sandra Howard married her present husband when he was a barrister, presumably destined for a life of days in court with the short working year of a judge to aim at. "Not quite. Michael was already fascinated by politics. He had stood twice for a Liverpool constituency. I knew that life as an MP, at least, had attraction." But her own life as one of Britain's best-known models in the early 1960s had been far removed from the treasure-hunting, husband-seeking forays of the Young Tories or Young Liberals.

"But I understood politics, had views. I was not as versed in its detail as I am now. Politics sucked me in, and are now a compulsive part of my own life." Had they argued about issues? "We do still. Furiously. I am his 'common man', someone to bounce ideas off, to test things he wants to say. And who wins these debates? 'Usually he persuades me. But not always.'"

On what issues had her viewpoint triumphed? "Oh, that is never actually announced! It is just you have the feeling something you said struck home, or a suggestion is taken up. But usually I am 'persuaded by the good sense of what he has said.'"

The obvious quotation marks around that last, very



"Every stage that you rise takes a little more of your freedom": Sandra Howard philosophises

politically sound remark, was a reminder that Sandra Howard had been described in the day's papers as "an accomplished political hostess".

The hat marked "hostess" is only one of many she must wear, as she had herself explained in the past, when asked to describe life as the wife of a rather more junior minister. She had spoken of the *housewife*, creating chaos with two supermarket trolleys; the *mother*, making sure the children have what they need when they need it whilst in a constant dash between the

part-time occupation. I do a little writing about fashion, and am trying to develop an interest in interior design. I don't feel cheated."

Cards along her mantelpiece reported that some of London's best-known names expected to be "at home" to Michael and Sandra Howard. Were they often at home to others, or even together? "At weekends in the country, yes. In the week, almost never. The pressure on this time is horrendous. And this has, I fear, cost us a few old friends." And will it now get worse? "I do not see how it can. Where are the hours to come from? Only from the time he now spends asleep. I imagine. There is no other part of the day or week now being spare." And is it worth it? "For Michael, yes. His satisfaction is a price we are all prepared to pay."

What most of us surmise about life inside high politics we base on television's *Yes, Prime Minister*. The wife of Peter Eddington's PM had a vast contempt for the manoeuvring of the political men, not excluding her husband. Did Sandra Howard share any of that? "In any sphere there are politics. When I rather explore, I certainly wish there were less politics, with a small 'p', in real political life: to never have to worry about what colleagues were saying about your promotion, your defeat."

"I am not sure I should be saying this, but yes, there is a side of politics that is too political for me. I would love it to be all open, for people doing the same work for the same side to be sweet to each other... but I have a weakness rather than a contempt when the manoeuvring begins."

Manoeuvre turns easily to mobilisation when men and their wives seek the highest post of all — was that part of the Howard's dream? "Not absolutely not." Really? "That is no part of Michael's grand plan. And that is a comfort to me. Indeed, a great comfort I have said politics is a mistress, and this promotion is a newer, more exciting mistress. But I am not jealous. I have learned to share."

Sandra Howard said she was sorry she would now have to go the constituency, the children and the hamster were all waiting. "You see, every stage higher that you rise takes a little more of your freedom."

# Life, liberty and literature

As I never have trouble sleeping, I have been shipping Radio 4's *A Book at Bedtime* this week, one that all impressionable young people should be shielded from, lest they be seduced into thinking D. H. Lawrence was a great writer. But I was interested in the introduction to it: a recreation of Penguin Books' trial, in 1960, for criminal obscenity in publishing *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

Like all good courtroom dramas, this one had several moments of high comedy, such as Mervyn Griffith-Jones, the prosecutor, asking a mixed jury, with suicidal snobbery, "Is it a book you would wish your wife or servant to read?" and, later, reacting with strangled fury to dear Richard Hoggart's remark that Lawrence's writing was "puritanical in its reverence for the weight of a man's balls". It had, as well, a most satisfying climax, with the forces of the usual kind of puritanism seen off with a ringing "Not guilty!"

At a time when the word that so upset Griffith-Jones is not only spoken but enacted on television, it is easy to feel superior to him. But the *Chatterley* verdict was by no means as inevitable as it seems now. The jurors, after all, were ordinary British men and women, not psychologists or literary critics, and could have been expected to share the assumptions of a society that thought Lawrence's book tended to deprave and corrupt its readers. The Crown counsel thought his case would be made simply by having each juror read a copy of the book. The defence parade of such witnesses as Rebecca West, E. M. Forster and the Bishop of Woolwich testifying to the novel's literary and moral worth not only enraged but astounded him. As S. J. Lieke-Bedford, in her report on the trial, wrote, "The speech for the defence and the speech for the prosecution were... addressed to two kinds of people. Only one question remained: Which kind was the jury?"

**"If The Satanic Verses were on trial next month, what kind of people would be on the jury?"**

With the fate of another historically important Penguin, the paperback edition of *The Satanic Verses*, in limbo, perhaps the question for us should be how far have we come from the hatred of free expression and fear of its consequences that put *Lady Chatterley* in the dock? If *The Satanic Verses* were on trial next month, which kind of people would be on the jury? I am not referring to Muslims and non-Muslims, but to those who uphold the right to think, even if it means making mistakes, and those who equate thinking with impiety.

In support of Salman Rushdie's novel, defence counsel today could doubtless call another roster of distinguished writers and theologians. But a prosecutor could also call a number of secular writers who have said that the book is wicked and its author should be punished — among them, Hugh Trevor-Roper who wrote that, he "would not shed a tear if some British Muslims... should waylay him [Rushdie] in a dark street and seek to improve [his manners]".

My own experience, in New York, of a jury did not leave me very optimistic about the average person's regard for rational, unprejudiced thought. Most of the 12 people charged with deciding whether a shopkeeper had correctly identified the man who robbed him had made up their emotions hearing the case.

Before it began, one woman was kicked off after asking, "What do you call the man who committed the crime? Is that the defendant?" Among the rest were a woman who voted guilty because the defendant reminded her of the man who had robbed her mother and a wealthy matron who voted to acquit because she sympathized with the tragic criminal class against the petit bourgeois.

After three days of deadlock, a mistrial was declared when the rich lady, who had been lecturing us on social justice, faked a heart attack so she could get out to complete a property deal.

We later learned that the defendant, who sat silent throughout the trial, had three felony convictions and that his friends had threatened the shopkeeper. I was left feeling bitter against a system that withheld important facts from jurors and left questions of life and liberty to the ignorant.

And yet, as the *Chatterley* case showed, facts, even intelligence (Griffith-Jones probably had more of that than most of the jurors who defied him) are not everything. What was on trial was a view of human nature. Some of the *Chatterley* jurors must have come into court with the traditional English belief that some things are not very nice, but they listened to the earnestness and passion of the witnesses and voted for the more traditional English belief of life and let live. The answer to Bedford's question is that they were the kind of people who could change their minds. Could we expect the same today? Which kind is the jury?

Rhoda Koenig

Barbara Amiel is on holiday

# Fowler fulfils his own prophecy

It was in October that Norman Fowler startled the Bow Group, the Conservative backbench pressure group, by affirming that "Men should play a bigger role at home... bringing up children is a shared responsibility". He was talking about women's careers, but we now know that the remark was a very large straw in the wind. He had already decided to retire to the backbenches and spend time with his own children: he revealed yesterday that he had been planning it since August.

When I talked to Fowler about that speech, perhaps I should have guessed something unusual was going on. He was, after all, startlingly less pompous and obsessive than most ministers who live wrapped up in the importance of their work: he chatted away about broken nights, children's need to talk to their parents, the complexity of getting them to parties and nurseries, and regretted that, having come to fatherhood rather late in life (he is 51), "I have not been the best of fathers myself". He sounded like a man who had found out something about life: but I never guessed he would act on it.

"Both my daughters were born while I have been a minister," Fowler

said, "and it came home to me in the summer that I was in danger of missing out on them growing up." Their first words, he confessed, were "See you later". So Kate, aged eight, Isobel, five (whose first political duty was to be vaccinated on television when her father was Secretary of State for Social Services) and family life have beaten fast-lane politics. A sort of Berlin Wall has toppled.

Fowler may well prove to be a real man of the Nineties. Charles Handy, whose maverick theories on "portfolio" living and the balanced, uncorporate individual are becoming more widely accepted, sees it often "more usually with second families".

He says, "Fowler is unusual in having his children late. But there is a pattern of people working for a very intense 25 years in the core of business or politics, then reaching their 50th year and saying, 'Is it worth going on?' and deciding to embark on a new chunk of life."

"But I have anecdotal evidence that younger people want change, too: my own children's generation look at their elders and say that there isn't any job which could justify the sacrifice of family and social life."

Institutions, however, are stiff and

unyielding with their high-flyers. "The trade-off is that they pay well and work very hard," Handy says. "If they allow flexibility for families, they're afraid that the slow lane would be too attractive, and people wouldn't come back into the mainstream." Women now find some flexibility, but men still get no quarter.

I heard the Fowler news on an East Anglian commuter train, where a first class passenger had a hi-tech radio. He informed the carriage, and an animated murmur rose from the smart-suited thirtysomethings. "Good for him. Wish I could do it. I never see my kids awake except at the weekend, and I travel two weekends in three," one said.

Another reported rather resentfully that his wife had had to make the decision about which nursery school his son went to: "I wanted to go and see it for myself."

None of them wanted to drop out or reverse roles, any more than Fowler does. They just wanted space to experience family life in the irreplaceable early years.

Sometimes the drop in pressure is accidental. Charles lost his job in the City when his children were aged three and four and his wife was "on the

verge of walking out on me". He now works near home for a fifth of the money he once earned. "I love being around the children," he said. "In the old days I spoiled them rotten for three hours a week, then vanished."

Interestingly, it wasn't that he had no leisure, but he used it in explosive, high-powered pursuits. "It was actually easier to let him drive off at 50 mph to compete in an ocean race; that way he never had to slow down."

Men who slow down their careers, however, are brave ones. Society applauds the macho workaholic and when Professor Gary Cooper complicates his occupational stress tables for the Sunday Times, he gets complaints from furious librarians about being at the bottom and high-pressure jobs make you feel important any mother could tell you about that gloomy, isolated moment when the joys of family life are reduced to a kitchen full of spilt cat-litter and a cross, stony toddler.

At such times a company chauffeur at the door and a sheet of policy decisions would seem like blessed freedom. Balance is the secret, and it is hard to find. It is oddly reassuring to find a Cabinet minister trying.

Libby Parves

## SALE

All Ready-to-Wear and a selection of accessories at the Chanel Boutiques will be substantially reduced from Monday 8th to Saturday 13th January, 1990.

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## Booking it green

Some bookshops are now awakening to the shift in reading habits by designating a special "green corner". But green books can be surprisingly thin on the ground. Books for A Change at 52 Charing Cross Road, London WC2R 0BB, has stocked such books for some time, and offers a mail-order catalogue for hard-to-find titles (telephone 01-836 2315). Publishers may be falling over themselves to launch new books on every aspect of the environment, but Green Classics brings back into print the writings of authors whose observations were ahead of their time — for example, Walter Rose's *Good Neighbours*, a classic portrait of English village life. Contact Green Books, Ford House, Hartland, Bideford, Devon EX39 6EE (0237 44621).

## Wild in wool

Knitwear designer Pamela Currie's "wildlife throws" — reversible shawls in soft lambswool — take their inspiration from zebras, tigers and leopards. She also creates leggings and one-off commissions in striking wildlife patterns. The reversible throws cost £220 each — not cheap, but considerably less than the price of a fur coat, and an alternative which (in its most

## ECOSPHERE

News on environmental issues

Literal sense) does not cost the earth. For further details, contact Pamela Currie at 17 Valiant House, Vicarage Crescent, London SW11 3LU.

## Law of a land

Many American states have for years been offering several cents back on aluminium cans and glass bottles, encouraging re-use and almost eliminating a litter problem. Now, Maine has taken matters further, with a recycling law which dictates that all juice, alcohol, soft drink and water containers should be recycled, that plastics which might harm wildlife be eliminated and that all industries recycle paper, which can have a far greater impact on the environment than domestic recycling. The aim is 25 per cent solid waste reduction by 1992.

## Starting early

*Play & Learn For Tomorrow's World* is a "children's discovery magazine" which, from this month, will start to tackle environmental issues in a way which stimulates the natural curiosity of those aged three to eight. The author Gerald Durrell will introduce an issue

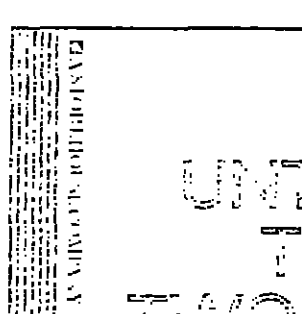
devoted to the tropical rainforests, emphasizing their role in the general health of the planet. In this way, science and natural history can be presented at child level, without being patronizing. Activity features include a toucan project, an eco-system colouring page, a bottle garden experiment, leaf printing and bark-rubbing. New subscribers will receive an inflatable (non-endangered) parrot. For further details or subscription information, contact Michele Claiborne or David Woolford-Kingston at Claiborne Publications, 36 High Street, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1AB (0728 602602).

## A cold view

A new series of *Fragile Earth* kicks off on Channel 4 this Sunday with "Anarctic Warriors", a chronicle of the Greenspace activists' exploratory mission to discover how exploitation of that continent (in contravention of the Antarctic Treaty) is leading to widespread pollution and irreversible damage to wildlife. Issues tackled later on will include the greening of the car and the politics of Highland salmon fishing and the on-going fight to preserve the world's oldest, deepest and largest freshwater lake, Lake Baikal in the Soviet Union. After a six-month run, viewers will be left in little doubt as to the accuracy of the series' title.

Josephine Fairley

Father's day: Fowler gives his daughter, Kate, a lift



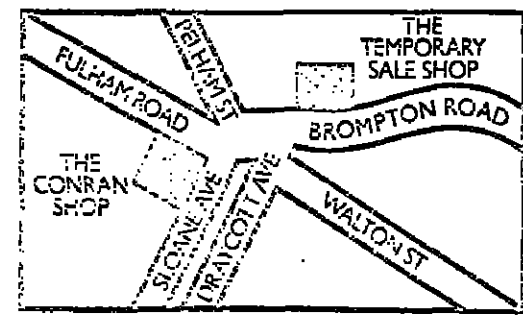
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# TIMES DIARY

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

When the MPs Henry Bellingham and Anthony Coombs first planned next weekend's conference of the Conservative Council on Eastern Europe, it was to be a clandestine affair for dissidents, held in a farmhouse in western Czechoslovakia. Now the conference, chaired by Baroness Cox, the deputy speaker of the House of Lords, will be held in plush surroundings in Prague and attended by Václav Havel, the country's new president.

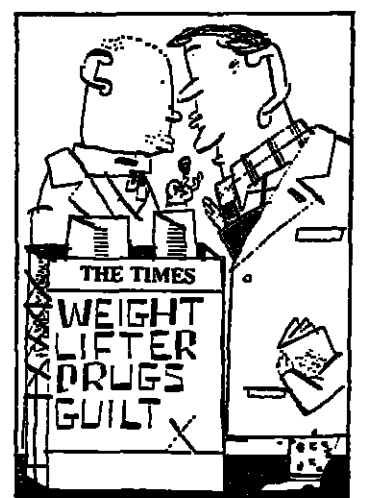
A guest of honour will be Jan Carnogursky. Last October, when the Conservative council hosted a conference in Poland, Bellingham organized a petition to the Czechoslovak authorities demanding Carnogursky's release from detention on a series of trumped up charges. Not only has he since been released, he is now deputy prime minister and has been put in charge of the secret police.

Bellingham, who chairs the council, set up last summer to assist free-market supporters in Eastern Europe, admits that he is somewhat surprised by the swiftness of events, and hopes that the activities of British Tories have at least played "a very small part". He says that the council now wants to concentrate on offering practical support in such areas as the training of election agents, where there is a marked skill shortage.

Social security minister Gillian Shephard's tour of the capitals of Western Europe for discussions with her ministerial counterparts was going well until she reached Portugal. I learn that, at an official dinner in Lisbon shortly before Christmas, Mrs Shephard had a heated exchange with Silva Feneida, the Portuguese minister for social security and employment, who calmly told her that because Portugal had signed the European Social Charter in Strasbourg in December did not mean it intended to implement it. Needless to say, Mrs Shephard was appalled and said so. In the middle of the row which followed, a waiter entered with a large basket of red roses intended for the British guest. By this time the Portuguese minister was so angry that he ordered the waiter and basket out of the room. Mrs Shephard never received her roses, but at least she is still in her job. Days after the incident, Feneida was dropped from the government in a reshuffle.

No wonder Labour is opposed to proportional representation. It has just won a seat on Lochaber District Council in Scotland, where its candidate, Olwyn Macdonald, tied with an independent on 200 votes apiece. Under electoral law, they cut a pack of cards to decide the result. Both drew aces. They cut again. The Labour candidate drew another ace, the independent a two. Aces were declared high and Labour the winner. Macdonald, however, may have had an advantage: she is the manager of a local betting shop.

BARRY FANTONI



"It's a burden he'll have to shoulder for the rest of his life"

One of the oddities about Michael Howard's elevation is why he began his Cabinet career by being flown in a helicopter to Sandringham at great expense, to be sworn in by Her Majesty as a Privy Counsellor. If we are to believe Norman Fowler's account of his resignation, the Prime Minister knew in November that she would have to find a new employment secretary. Yet when the New Year's Honours List was announced last week, Howard's name was nowhere to be found, while two of his chief rivals for promotion, John Patten and William Waldegrave, were made Privy Council members.

This could just be coincidence, but my spies in Hampstead and Highgate don't think so. After some delay, local Labour Party officials have now fixed the selection timetable for the marginal seat from which Tory MP Sir Geoffrey Finsberg is retiring at the next election — and it coincides exactly with Glenda Jackson's return from the US, and her four-week run in *Scenes From An Execution* at London's Almeida Theatre. As I revealed last month, the actress also has an interest in the nomination for the Leeds East constituency, where Denis Healey is retiring.

"Look up 'twinge'." I said. She opened the dictionary again. While I waited, I moved a threatening fragment of croissant across the roof of my mouth with the tip of my tongue, gingerly, and deposited it carefully on the safe side. She finished flipping. "Elancement," she said, finally. "Or possibly *remords*. I shouldn't think it's *remords*, though. *Remords* sounds like conscience." "What?" "On the other hand," I said, "Elancement sounds a bit bloody serious. A jabbing. A stabbing. Even. I shouldn't want him to — ow! — think it's that major. I shouldn't want to encourage him to start poking about with a probe. I shouldn't want him to do that thing they do with the little hammer. Look up 'probe'." "Sonde," she said, after a bit. "Or *stylet*." "I wonder which?" I said. A

## Step forward now, you architects of Europe

On that never to be forgotten day in November when a torrent of East Germans swept through the first narrow breach in the Berlin Wall, the effect was that of a mighty dam high in the hills bursting and carrying all before it. The familiar landmarks of the cold war were submerged, and the floods undermined well-trodden policy tracks which had determined Western actions for nearly 40 years. Not surprisingly, the principal actors reacted differently.

Chancellor Kohl of West Germany is positive about what needs to be done. His immediate reaction was to set down 10 steps towards the reunification of all parts of the two German states. He foresees the early development of joint political institutions and the establishment of joint commissions with responsibility for economic policy, technology, transport and health, all leading in due course to a German Federation. In short it will be a kind of creeping reunification, but it will be subject to one essential condition. He insists that it take place in a Europe that is united as well as free.

The Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, was as blunt as Chancellor Kohl has been constructive. Would a united Germany accept its existing borders, he asked? Further, would it be ready to accept demilitarization and adopt a neutral status between the two cold war alliances? Above all, would allied soldiers remain on German soil? What guarantees would be given that a united Germany would not again threaten peace in Europe?

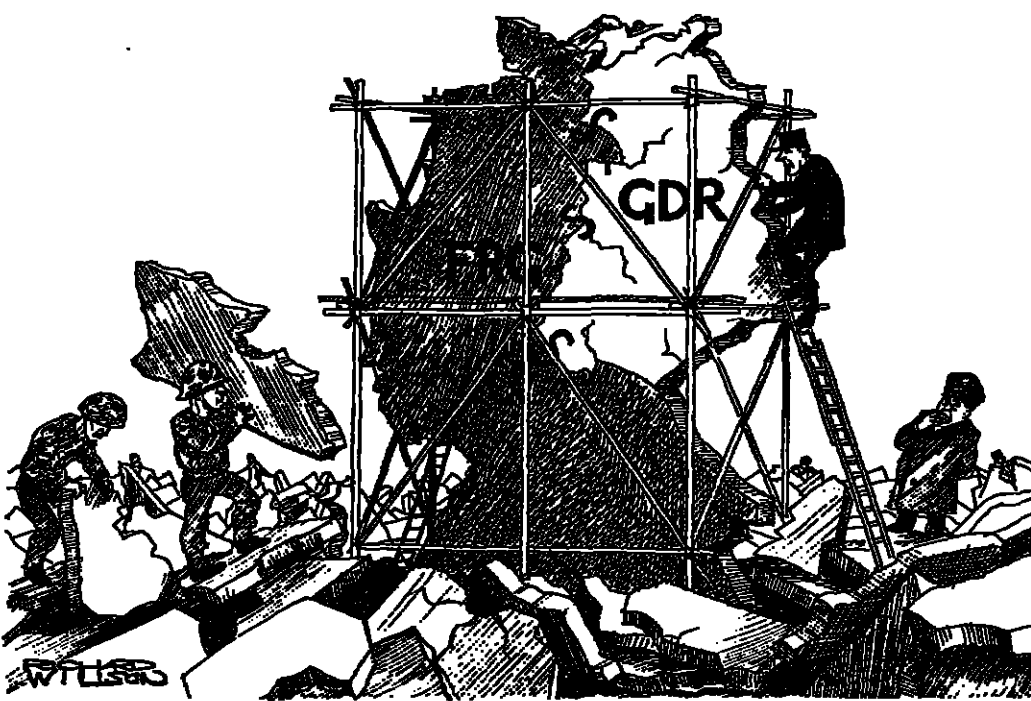
West Germany's European partners were hardly brimming with enthusiasm either. When they met at Strasbourg, they intoned for the umpteenth time their support of the right of the two Germanies to unite through democratic self-determination. But they clung to the institutional pillars of the status quo. Their message was "take it slowly".

It is unlikely that events will wait for these cautious politicians. Elections are due to take place in both halves of Germany this year, and it is certain that unification will be in the minds of both electorates, whether or not it surfaces as an election issue. There can be no doubt that it will come to the fore once the elections are out of the way.

There is no time to lose if Western leaders are to agree proposals for managing change. First, there must be no appearance of foot-dragging by the Western powers on the principle of unification, if it becomes clear that the people of both parts of Germany wish it. We may think it inconvenient that the issue has become active so soon, but this is no way invalidates our freely given pledges, nor does it limit our moral obligation. Our responsibility and long-term interests lie in making German unification work under conditions that will ensure stability and peace in Europe.

The British people have been left in no doubt about the needs of disabled people, and government gives them more money and help than at any previous time in our history, but we have, none the less, demeaned them by failing to give them choice. For instance, with the best of intentions, the state decided that it knew best what kind of wheelchair was most suitable for disabled people, without actually asking their views. The planning was then put in the hands of civil servants, which resulted in wheelchairs in great abundance, but of a strictly limited design. They have not, it may be noted, found much favour in the export market.

After patients have been pre-



### James Callaghan laments the caution being shown by Western leaders in planning the new world German reunification will bring

Second, the security fears of the Soviet Union (and of Poland) will need to be addressed. Mr Gorbachov will require firm guarantees. The Moscow Treaty and the Warsaw Treaty, both negotiated by Willy Brandt in 1970, go part of the way towards such guarantees. According to these treaties, West Germany freely acknowledges that the post-war Oder-Neisse line drawn by the allies in 1945 constitutes the frontier between Poland and East Germany. Quite recently West Germany's foreign minister, Hans Dietrich Genscher, repeated this pledge publicly when addressing the United Nations. Poland's territory and frontiers, he said, are inviolable. Germans and Poles both know that acceptance of the Oder-Neisse line involves German renunciation of territory which formed a part of the German Reich for a century. This renunciation is an act of profound significance which ought to have its effect on Soviet fears.

But there is a difficulty here. From the time of Konrad Adenauer onwards, every German leader has insisted that a surrender of territory cannot legally be sanctioned without the consent of the government of a free and united Germany. So the permanent settlement of the Polish/German boundary depends on the achievement of unification.

The forthcoming Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe will provide an opportunity to explore these issues in the widest European context, but this is an unwieldy body to conduct negotiations, and it might be better for the wartime Allies — the United States, Britain,

France and the Soviet Union — to meet representatives of the two Germanies to initiate talks about the content and timing of a possible peace treaty. Such talks would have to answer Mr Shevardnadze's questions, including that about the presence of foreign troops on German soil. In this context, Mr Petrovsky, an experienced deputy foreign minister, recently said that the



Soviet Union intends to withdraw all of its 400,000 troops from East Germany by the year 2000, as part of the total withdrawal of 625,000 troops stationed in foreign countries. At Potsdam, the Soviet Union was anxious to put as much space as possible between itself and any conceivable invasion force in the West. A united Germany which opted for membership of Nato would upset the present balance, because potentially it would advance the front line of Nato right up to the Polish border. It would probably be unwise for Nato to do this, but in any case a solution will have to be found.

No doubt other problems will arise during the course of a negotiated peace treaty, so there will be a disposition to put the whole thing off. But if, as I

believe, effective German unification will be upon us quickly, these problems will have to be dealt with. A beginning should now be made to think through these issues, for until they are solved, the West must rely upon Nato as the keystone of its defence. We should now be searching for a security system that will calm the fears of the Soviet Union and Germany's neighbours, protect the sovereignty of a united democratic Germany, and safeguard the interests of Western Europe.

Despite the difficulties, there is room for more optimism than pessimism. West Germany has been well led since the Second World War, and democracy has taken a firm hold. The world has changed much since 1945, and West Germany's leaders know that in the 21st century technology will be more important than territory. They acknowledge that German unification has consequences for a wider constituency than the two Germanies. Furthermore, in any peace treaty negotiations, German representatives would speak neither from weakness nor out of a belief that they have been "stabbed in the back" (as they said in 1919); they would be negotiating as equals, indeed as representatives of the dominant economic and financial force in Europe.

Germany sees its role and future within the context of a truly comprehensive European unity. This is a vision worth striving for. What a pity that at such a moment Britain's contribution to the debate seems to be limited to arguments about exchange rates and the Social Charter. Britain's historical understanding, pragmatism and common sense are all needed in full measure if the new settlement of Europe is to be stable and to endure more than a few years. Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, visits Moscow in the spring. He will have plenty to talk about. Here is a task for statesmanship.

## Robert Kilroy-Silk Brute realities of 'freedom'

Presumably someone is going to inform all those young East Europeans that everything is not, as they seem to imagine, wonderful in the West. They will, I hope, be told gently that their idealized picture of life in a liberal democracy does not square with the mundane reality of everyday life here. Of course, the instruction process needs to be carried out sensitively; care must be exercised; they must be let down lightly.

It is not only the starry-eyed revolutionaries who need re-educating. So do many of the Western, and especially British, leader writers and political commentators who have commented upon the recent events in the disintegrating Soviet empire. So overjoyed have they been at the sight of Stalin's and Brezhnev's children seeking to ape the political and economic system of the West, that they have convinced themselves not only that we have the best of all political and economic systems — which is more than probable — but that everything in it is absolutely fine and dandy, which it is not.

Many Western politicians have followed the same line. They appear to be so overcome by the enormous tributes that have been paid — to our ideology, our economic skills, political institutions and wisdom — by those who have been prepared to die for the freedom to join our value-system and enjoy our way of life, that they have allowed themselves to be flattered into the complacent belief that we have no problems, or only minor ones.

Well the West may have "won", as one commentator rather sleazily put it, but the apparent triumph of the capitalist economic model, and vindication of Nato strategy, do not justify the orgy of self-congratulation that has settled upon us like a November fog. This merely obscures serious, fundamental and inherent flaws that the newly liberated Eastern Europeans would do well to acknowledge.

They should certainly not expect too much of democratically elected leaders. Being elected to office may bring with it legitimacy, but it does not confer either wisdom or honesty. The installation of Václav Havel as president of Czechoslovakia may be a sign of the emergence of a new political animal, a honest, truthful, sincere, his own man — but I doubt it.

Václav Havel's insistence that political leaders cannot say one thing while thinking another is, of course, both refreshing and encouraging, but it will not last. Havel is himself an unusual phenomenon. He is not, as he would be the first to admit, a political animal — at least not a party-political animal. He says that he will remain in office as president only until the April elections. We shall have to see about that; there will be reasons for him to stay on.

In the meantime, his apparent lack of political ambition enables him to be truthful and

careless of the consequences in a way that a career politician who wants to win an election or two cannot be. That is why it is naive to believe that a "contaminated" atmosphere of hypocrisy exists only among governments in the communist world. It was not only the Honeckers and the Ceausescus who preached the virtues of sacrifice and socialism while wallowing in the fruits of the good life (most of them imported from the West). More than one left-wing democratic politician in the West has managed to live in an expensive house with the benefit of unearned income while enjoying the comrades not to buy their council house or acquire shares. There are clerics who manage to rail against the materialism that the East Europeans are surviving and dying for while enjoying a comfortable lifestyle and invitations to cocktail parties.

Nor should the newly emancipated expect too much from democratic institutions. They are deeply flawed. How could they not be when staffed by fallible and corruptible human beings? The Western political system may well be the flavour of the month, but, in Britain at least, Havel disciples would be foolish to look to the political parties as repositories, or even defenders, of truth.

Here, political parties are vehicles for the advance of a class or special interest; they always have been, and will never be anything else. The truth, whatever that may be, has never been part of their remit. Power is what they are after, nothing else, and the truth will be shaped and moulded, or simply denied, in order to serve the purpose — vide Neil Kinnock's dumping of more than 100 years of socialist principles for the mere promise of the possibility of the key to 10 Downing Street.

The truth, as Havel sees it, will certainly not be found in a large part of the British Press, which has become so full of lies and distortion that it can rarely be believed, let alone trusted. Nor is the nation known as the mother of parliaments as free as we may pretend. It would not, for example, have been possible to have a march in London as they did in East Berlin, in Leipzig in Prague and in Bucharest without first giving notice, obtaining a permit, and agreeing the route with the police.

Most important of all, the new democrats from the East need to learn that freedom does not automatically confer material rewards, that they have to be worked for; that there is no guarantee that hard work will be adequately rewarded, as the poor and the homeless will testify; that although the talk is of equality, the reality is that only the rich can buy the best education and health care; that justice is not available for the poor; that life is not fair.

And the fundamental truth is that, despite all of its faults, ours is the best system yet discovered.

## Wheelchairs: still symbols of a world apart

Ian McColl, continuing our series on reforms for the 1990s, asks for a new deal for disabled people

The change that I would most like to see in the 1990s is greater respect for disabled people. I believe this can be achieved, first, by giving them more choice in the provision of the help they already receive, and second, by improving the attitude of able-bodied people towards them. The question is how best to achieve this fundamental reform.

The British people have been left in no doubt about the needs of disabled people, and government gives them more money and help than at any previous time in our history, but we have, none the less, demeaned them by failing to give them choice. For instance, with the best of intentions, the state decided that it knew best what kind of wheelchair was most suitable for disabled people, without actually asking their views. The planning was then put in the hands of civil servants, which resulted in wheelchairs in great abundance, but of a strictly limited design. They have not, it may be noted, found much favour in the export market.

After patients have been pre-

scribed wheelchairs, they either accept the model that is on offer, or reject it and buy their own. They have no choice. They have themselves partly paid for the product through their taxes, but have absolutely no say in its design. They are customers who have been denied respect.

Disabled people often have to argue their case for different aids and allowances with different officials in different places. Some elderly people prefer to go without, than to risk the humiliation of such encounters.

Some of the doctors who are employed to serve disabled people were offended when it was suggested that they should stand up when a patient enters the consulting room. Bearing in mind that some of these people risked their lives and lost their limbs in the last war, why do these doctors behave in this manner? After all, the Queen and the Prime Minister always stand to receive people, irrespective of who they are.

Disabled people will be respected only when they are given some power over the providers. This can readily be achieved, by

for instance, giving them the choice of the state wheelchair or a voucher equivalent to the value of the wheelchair plus the cost of the service. Such a scheme would tip the balance the right way, by giving the customer the opportunity to take the voucher to a manufacturer outside the state system, to choose a chair of his liking, and to pay for extras if he or she chooses.

The state system would then have an incentive to try to retain its customers and to woo them with respect, efficiency and better products. Then perhaps reluctant doctors might rise to their feet, pleased to see their customers. If the demand for the state system fell, so would the number of jobs.

Such a voucher system has been criticized on the grounds that all those who now buy

wheelchairs outside the state system would claim their vouchers, which would result in a rise in expenditure. Good management should be able to cope with these problems by channelling resources to severely disabled people whose needs are indisputable. Others have objected that voucher holders may not have the wit to choose correctly, but this is just the jaundiced view of bureaucracy. Big brother knows best.

Disabled people are often humiliated by the transport system. State bureaucracy frequently transports amputees in very expensive, but uncomfortable, inefficient and demoralizing vehicles: ambulances. An elderly amputee may be collected from his or her hospital and taken on an uncomfortable journey of several hours to a limb-fitting centre. The journey

would take much less time in a car, and would cost less.

The public's attitude towards disabled people can be strange indeed. Many people regard the physically disabled as mentally defective, or deaf, or both. This unfortunate state of affairs can be improved. Many medical students spend a day in their hospital in a wheelchair to gain first-hand experience of what wheelchair life is about. At the end of the day they are usually appalled at the lack of facilities for disabled people, even within their own hospital.

Perhaps the solution to this problem is for children to grow up from their earliest years understanding disability in a practical way. This can be done in the home and at school. The Manor Farm Middle School in Buckinghamshire is running a project to show pupils what life is like for disabled people. Role play gives them insight into blindness, paraplegia and the absence of arms or legs.

The children are also visited by people with these afflictions, and learn from them at first hand the problems that disability

brings. The children quickly learn to deal naturally with them, and prejudice and misunderstanding are dissolved. The project was instituted by the Understanding Disabilities Educational Trust, and I hope it will be copied in many more schools throughout the country. As far as possible, too, disabled children should attend ordinary schools.

More realistic attitudes towards disability should be inculcated from an early age, in the family, in schools and in churches, and should be reinforced throughout life.

Justice and altruism should ensure that disabled people are well served by the able-bodied world. But because human nature is defective in many respects, self-interest is often a catalyst for better behaviour. So if justice and altruism are not enough to persuade us to treat the disabled with greater respect, perhaps self-interest will do the trick. For half of us will be in some way disabled before we die. Lord McColl of Dulwich is Professor of Surgery at Guy's Hospital, London.

## Tooth will out, in any language



ALAN COREN

tiny electric shock arced across the tooth in question. "I shall probably try both. *S'il vous plaît m'sieur le dentiste, pas de sonde ou de stylet*." "On petit marteau?" "What?" "Little hammer." "Oh, right. *Et pas de petit bloody marteau, either. How does that sound?*" "Mad," she replied, sympathetically. "You cannot walk into his surgery and start laying down dental procedures. He'll know what to do, if he's any good."

"If," I cried, "if He could be a bloody butcher. They could all be bloody butchers. Who can guess what dental standards are like in France? Remember when I broke my thumb in, where was it, Pottiers? They just rammed in a suppository the size of a walnut and said 'don't wiggle it for a month. The French may very well have vastly different pain thresholds from us.'"

"Everybody," she said, "has a vastly different pain threshold from you."

"I just happen to have particularly sensitive teeth," I said. Unquestionably, I had one particularly sensitive tooth. It had made this known to me, last midnight, here in Venice, some 900 miles from 12 Upper Wimpole Street, the ebullient

without an anaesthetic. He was not here. We were here, in this café, this morning, with this dictionary, and, across the square, the sun-winking plates of three alien tooth-jockeys. To whom should I turn? "Look up 'painless'." I said. "Sans douleur," she read, aloud. "Doesn't sound right." I said. "Bonjour, êtes-vous un dentiste sans douleur?" It sounds as though I'm inquiring into his personal life. Tell you what, look up "high-speed drill".

"You plan to ask him if he uses a — hang on — *un fraiseuse de grande vitesse*?" "It would at least be some indication that he kept abreast of things. It wouldn't surprise me if some of these buggers used a brace and bit. Chloroform, possibly. If you were lucky."

She looked at me briefly, then away, to the doorways opposite. "Personally," she said, "I'd pick the one with the Mercedes."

"Means nothing at all," I said. "Could well be a charlatan. Could well have paid for it out of totally unnecessary bridgework. You'd go in with a twinge, he'd slip you the chloroform, by the time you woke up you'd have a 22-carat lower jaw and he'd be out shopping for a Ferrari."

"Tell him *pas de travail de pont*," she said.

"I finished my coffee. It was no longer hot, but the tooth twanged. 'Alternatively,' I said, 'I could be in Wimpole Street in three hours.'"

"Just when I've found that the word we're after is *poltron*?" she said.





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

## BUSH GETS HIS MAN

Two years since they placed him on the wanted list and two weeks since they sent a posse to arrest him, the Americans yesterday finally got their man. The arrival of General Manuel Noriega at a Florida airfield secured for President Bush the last objective of his military intervention in Panama. To that extent his immediate problems may be over. In another sense they are only just beginning.

Drugs trafficking charges were filed against General Noriega by two Florida courts in 1988. He is accused of accepting huge bribes from Colombia's drug barons for allowing cocaine shipments to the United States to be channelled through his own country. If convicted on all counts, he faces a maximum penalty of \$1 million in fines and 145 years in jail.

The general's lawyers have always said that he would plead not guilty and would moreover demand access to a number of sensitive US documents which the authorities might be unwilling to release. He claims to have had close and potentially embarrassing contacts with US defence and intelligence sources when he was head of military intelligence in Panama. He met Mr Bush himself on two occasions, when the latter was director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr Bush has dismissed the effect of such disclosures. It seems inconceivable that the White House has not analysed the threat. The vigour and determination with which it has pursued its elusive quarry suggest that the President's confidence is justified.

President Bush cannot, on the other hand, control the courts. If Noriega tries to subpoena secret papers the CIA might refuse to release them on grounds of national security. Last year the prosecution of a former agent, indicted over the Iran-Contra affair, was officially blocked because the CIA would not release material deemed essential by the judge. The President has promised the general a fair trial. If the defence cannot have access to all the documents it says it requires, some of the charges against Noriega may have to be dropped.

That is only one half of Washington's

problem. The other concerns the regeneration of Panama after several years under a military dictatorship, culminating in the US invasion and subsequent fighting. The country badly needs strength and stability if it is to inherit control of the Panama Canal in 10 years' time. In spite of attempts to internationalize the task, the main burden of responsibility will fall on Washington.

The present desperate state of the Panamanian economy is partly the result of US sanctions, imposed progressively since 1988. Canal shipping dues have been frozen by the Americans in a trust fund, to be paid only when Noriega had been ousted. The resumption of such payments and the lifting of trade sanctions will allow the shattered economy to revive. But it will also need an injection of capital aid from Washington, if only to repair damage from the fighting. According to one estimate, up to \$1 billion may be needed.

At the same time, President Guillermo Endara's new Government needs to establish its authority and independence. Senor Endara is popularly considered to have been the true victor of last May's elections, aborted by Noriega. None the less he now owes his job to the Americans: he was installed as President on a US air base just before the military operation started. He still lacks constitutional legitimacy — best attained by early, internationally monitored elections.

The "extradition" of General Noriega removes a dangerous threat to the new Government. Even when he was inside the Vatican mission his presence had an unsettling effect on the country. If he had been released to the Panamanian authorities to stand trial for alleged crimes there, he might have remained a focal point for anti-government forces.

The first priority for the Americans must be to rebuild the Panamanian Army, replacing that which Noriega once commanded with a disciplined, professional force, loyal to the Government. Once Washington is satisfied that the integrity of Panama has been restored, however, it should disengage. Then President Bush's triumph will be complete.

## HOWARD'S WAY

Mr Michael Howard's elevation to the Cabinet is well deserved. He has successfully steered some of the Government's least appealing legislation through the Commons including the Bill on the poll tax and the water privatization legislation. Not only has he shown the lawyer's mastery of his brief but he has contrived to win the arguments without upsetting too many people along the way — a rare enough achievement in a politician.

In his new job as Employment Secretary in succession to Mr Norman Fowler he will have an opportunity to keep his legislative hand in with the Employment Bill. But the prime skills required in his new job will be different. Of all the jobs in the Cabinet the Employment Secretary's is perhaps the least managerial and the most hortatory. He must urge wage negotiators not to conclude excessive pay settlements, tell companies to invest in training, encourage the unemployed to look for work and exhort union leaders to see economic sense. In all these tasks he has few levers he can pull and only his persuasiveness to carry him through.

But although the Department of Employment has relatively few battalions in Whitehall it is not unimportant to the future of the British economy. The steep fall in unemployment over the past few years, which has left the Labour Party short of political ammunition on a crucial front, may be about to reverse itself. It is more than ever necessary to focus policy on the positive business of creating the conditions in which new jobs may emerge rather than concentrating solely on the problem of those without jobs.

Mr Howard has inherited the Department of

Employment rather than the Department of Unemployment. The Department is, or should be, the focus for all the micro-economic changes which help to make the economy work more efficiently. Many of these will be among the Department's traditional responsibilities, such as labour law, training and incentives for the self-employed. But many, such as free markets in areas traditionally the territory of other ministries, will not. It would be nice to see Mr Howard taking a lead within the Government in pushing these micro-economic initiatives ahead.

If there is one overriding challenge facing the new Employment Secretary it is on training. No one doubts that there is not enough of it in Britain and that much of what there is not of high enough quality. What used to be a nagging suspicion has been converted into a well-documented certainty by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

The Government's programme of training and enterprise councils, the first of which begins operation in the spring, may help to focus the country's effort more effectively. But to bring the average level of training in Britain up to the average in a country like Germany will require a great deal more effort.

This does not necessarily mean the Government spending more money to run bigger and better schemes of its own, but it does mean Government creating the conditions in which industry and commerce will invest in human capital as well as fixed capital. Achievement on this front will do more for Britain's economic performance than the more high-profile changes to the employment laws embodied in the Employment Bill.

## CAUCASIAN WALL

It is almost two years since Soviet troops were deployed in the streets of Yerevan. Then the disorders were over the status of the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Kremlin tried knocking Armenian and Azerbaijani heads together by cleaning out the leadership of the party organizations in both republics and imposing direct rule from Moscow on the disputed region. The situation is not less explosive than it was.

Mr Gorbachev made much in his new year message on Soviet television of what he called the "waves of socialist renewal" in Eastern Europe. When he surveyed the domestic scene, however, he struck a more sombre note, and conceded that the exacerbation of inter-ethnic relations had become a major source of concern.

Almost as he was speaking, demonstrators were tearing down guard towers and destroying alarm systems along a 100-mile stretch of the Soviet border with Iran. Petrol bombs were thrown, and there were chants of "down with the Russian empire" and "reunification with Iran". If it is all true, it is in some respects as ominous a development as anything that has gone before. Not for the first time, Russian history is springing up and hitting Mr Gorbachev in the face.

What is now Soviet Azerbaijan used to belong to Persia. The army of the Tsar marched in in the 1820s. Since last year there have been mass rallies there, and leaders of the Azerbaijani People's Front have been calling for the opening of the border with Iran. "Since Stalin's time", one of their leaders said, "there has been an official Berlin Wall between the Azerbaijanis in the north and those in the south".

The nationalists' claim that they want only to be able to visit their families on the other side of the frontier and to trade freely is met with scepticism in Moscow. Mr Gennadi Gerasimov, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, met it with one of his celebrated shrugs — "some extremists", he said, "believe there is no

need for a border between the Soviet Union and Iran". Tass announced that some of the demonstrators had been under the influence of drink and drugs. *Izvestia*, with a surer feel for emotive language, came up with "pogrom".

The Azerbaijanis are in the main Shia Muslims. After decades of hostility, the USSR's relations with Iran have only recently begun to improve. A delegation from Tehran visited Moscow last year, and agreements on economic co-operation were signed which included the reestablishment of oil pipeline and rail connections. Azerbaijan is important to the Soviet Union for its oil, and a number of large off-shore deposits have been discovered in the Caspian in the past few years.

The Iranians have protested at the disorders, and have called on the Soviet authorities to take "appropriate measures". These have so far taken the form of moving in troop reinforcements with armoured vehicles. Beyond that, Moscow seems to have little idea of how to proceed. The KGB general in charge of the frontier guards has accused the popular front leaders of bad faith, claiming that agreement had been reached on "moving some border structures", on "simplifying entry into the area" and on "creating more favourable conditions for economic activity".

Moscow does not have much room for manoeuvre. It will undoubtedly play on the divisions that have begun to appear in the Popular Front — some would settle for increased commercial and cultural contacts, others seem bent on more radical courses. The views of Tehran are impenetrable. At this stage, certainly, the Soviet authorities seem unlikely to look with favour on any sort of Benech solution that would allow free passage through a "porous" frontier.

"What is to be done?" Since he let the twin genies of *glasnost* and *perestroika* out of the bottle, Mr Gorbachev has had many occasions to ask himself Lenin's famous question. This week it once again echoes mockingly back at him from the Caucasus.

## Deciding where charity begins

From Mr Adrian Mann

Sir, Professor Raymond Plant's article (January 1) on the nature of charity reminds us that, when people speak of charity beginning at home, they often mean that this is precisely where it ends. He goes on to point out that the scope for sins of omission in this area of life is potentially infinite. The New Right seeks protection from this burden by insisting that moral responsibility is entirely limited to where there is a direct relationship, but Professor Plant rightly insists, from a Christian viewpoint, that Christ died for the whole of humanity — this does seem to rule out any such limitation.

Applying the story of the Good Samaritan, or of the Rich Man and Lazarus, in the modern world presents us with a very trying moral conundrum. What is the difference between falling over Lazarus outside my front door, or outside the station on my way to work, or seeing him on television? Who is the Rich Man now that the global village is with us? Might it just be you and me? Indeed, this is all very upsetting and leading towards compassion fatigue or even guilt by omission.

The move towards personalising charity is not the answer. It raises more problems than it solves. Are not patronising relationships set up? Who should be grateful to whom? What about sticky little problems such as power and justice?

Here are a few suggestions, from a Christian point of view, for breaking out of the moral impasse. I can adopt an attitude of thanksgiving to God for all that I have and so come to realise that it has some purpose attached to it. I can be attentive to God and the world and so try to discover what that purpose might be. I can move towards using my money in ways which are compatible with that purpose. I can give money away regularly, purposefully, sacrificially, in proportion to my income and my wealth, in order to enhance that purpose. I can be pleased to do so and not expect

thanks, recognition or influence to arise out of giving.

In fact, there is not an answer, but there is a way forward. To find it we have to realise that profound moral questions such as those raised by Professor Plant require each of us to make connections with the real holy of holies in our lives — My Money. Only connect the poetry and the prose.

Yours etc.,  
ADRIAN MANN (Director,  
The Anglican Stewardship  
Association),  
23 Westgate Street,  
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.  
January 1.

From Dr David G. Green  
Sir, Julia Neuberger (article, January 3) urges the imposition of a new income tax surcharge that would be given to charities.

I can think of nothing more likely to undermine the true spirit of charity. Our voluntary organisations have already ceased to be truly voluntary, as they have become increasingly dependent on Government grants.

Rabbi Neuberger's plan to parcel out money to charities through the Grants Committee of the Charities Aid Foundation will undermine still further the spirit of pioneering and innovation which makes charities so vital to the life of the nation and will create a new bureaucracy devoted to presenting and appraising funding proposals.

But, most serious of all, her plea to make charitable giving compulsory undermines the personal moral responsibility which is the very essence of benevolence. She notes that Americans give more generously to charity than Britons, but this is in part because in America charitable donations are tax deductible. Perhaps we should adopt this method of encouraging without compelling charitable giving.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID GREEN (Director),  
Health and Welfare Unit,  
The Institute of Economic Affairs,  
2 Lord North Street,  
Westminster, SW1.  
January 3.

## An MP's duty

From Mr David Martin, MP for Portsmouth South (Conservative)  
Sir, Mr Shapiro claims (December 28) that these days MPs are not justified in citing Burke's assertion of a right to prefer his judgement to that of his electors when they "vote for what the majority of their electors oppose".

That is all very well, but how in practice am I to know what "the majority of my electors oppose" or support on any particular issue at any given moment? The proposition that every policy in a manifesto at a general election is known and agreed, even by all those who vote for me, would not survive a few doorsteps' close questioning. In addition, much upon which I vote at Westminster is not set out in any manifesto at all.

There were 76,229 electors on the register in my constituency at

the last general election, of whom 54,365 voted — 23,534 for me. I represent them all at Westminster. On many issues I receive no unsolicited opinions at all. On some I receive perhaps up to half a dozen. On major occasions some few hundred and most of those usually orchestrated in standard card or letter form by pressure groups.

Burke also asserted in his same speech to the British electors, November 3, 1774 that an MP owes a duty to listen to his constituents before exercising his judgement. The notion that such assertions are either irrelevant or undemocratic today is as ludicrous as to suggest that his were the favoured propositions of such as Stalin and Ceausescu.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MARTIN,  
House of Commons.  
December 29.

## Shearing the flocks

From Lord Inglewood, MEP for Cumbria and Lancashire North (Conservative European Democrat)

Sir, Ronald Faux's timely article, "Shearing the flocks" (December 30), neatly illustrates one of the problems facing the British uplands and those who live and work there. This is, however, only one example of the complicated relationships at play caused by the conflicting demands of conservation, tourism, agriculture, and the need for people to earn a living.

These relationships are complemented by the spider's web of political agencies and institutions — European, national (several ministries, especially Agriculture and Environment), county councils, national park authorities, district and even parish councils, all of whom play a part in

influencing what is happening on the fells.

It is all terribly complicated, especially for the fell farmer. This reason alone seems to be sufficient to welcome the Countryside Commission's recent decision to carry out a thorough investigation into the workings of the national parks.

The Times on December 30 carried on its front page details of a surge on the Stock Exchange. "Shearing the flocks" was in the Review, among the "leisure items". For many upland farmers who, because they are owners of small businesses enjoy standards of living below the Agricultural Wages Board's minimum wage, the activities in the world stock markets are as exotic as Asian holidays.

Yours faithfully,  
INGLEWOOD,  
Hutton-in-the-Forest,  
Penrith, Cumbria.

## Faithful friends

From Mr Frank W. Button

Sir, Mr Levin (article, January 1) has said goodbye to his watch and his typewriter after they have given many years' service. This letter is being typed on a Corona machine that belonged to my father over 50 years ago. I use a wristwatch that belonged to my younger brother who was killed in an air raid in 1941. I shave with a Gillette razor that was given to me by an uncle when I went up to Cambridge in 1935.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANK W. BUTTON,  
Ennerdale, 390 Wokingham Road,  
Earley, Reading, Berkshire.  
January 1.

## Presents indicative

From Mr John Dege

Sir, Mr Hore's letter (December 29) listing the foreign origin of his family's Christmas presents pinpoints a form of British madness which appeals people of my generation.

In the thirties we were constantly exhorted to "Buy British", to such effect that, given the choice, most of us still do. A sustained Government advertising campaign to drive home this lesson might do wonders for our trade figures.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN DEGE,  
44 Audley Drive,  
Warrington, Surrey.  
January 1.

## River barrages

From Mr Raymond Wallis

Sir, Many of your correspondents' on the desirability of estuarine barrages for electricity generation seem to me to fail to grasp two fundamental points.

1. The barrages are not like dams, permanently impounding a high water level, but by their very nature must have a water level which rises and falls, probably on a more or less tidal cycle, and probably with a range not much different from the tidal range. Thus, mudflats will be regularly covered and exposed and so be as available for water birds as they are now. It is true that pollution may tend to be impounded by a barrage, but it is to be hoped that by the time any barrages are actually built the National Rivers Authority will have got river pollution well under control.

2. Electricity is produced by barrages without carbon dioxide production and is thus green-house effect friendly. If we do not reduce CO<sub>2</sub> production significantly, global warming will so raise the sea level that the mudflats are permanently covered, and the water birds will suffer even worse.

Yours faithfully,  
R. M. WALLIS,  
55 Flun Lane,  
Frodsham, Warrington, Cheshire.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01782 5946.

## Measures for safer motorways

From Mr K. E. Hunter

Sir, Professor Day (December 28) proposes American levels of enforcement of a 60 m.p.h. limit on our narrow, fewer-laned motorways, with overtaking permitted on both sides, with little regard for resource requirements or realism.

The functions of uniform police patrols in most American forces are much more generalized than those of their British counterparts, whose functional specialisms, ranging from community policing to public-order response units, have been brought about by different community problems and political pressures; almost all American patrol officers are mobile and capable of enforcing speed limits whilst retaining a residual capacity for emergency response and prompt, initial investigation of crimes.

Only a small proportion of British police resources is invested with such all-round capacity. Professor Day's proposal would therefore require either a new model of police organization, an enormously expensive strengthening of resources or such a change in British thinking about policing and police organization as to render it academic.

In any event, speed limits are not quite so rigorously enforced across the USA as Professor Day suggests. Local police zeal is related more to the need to top up municipal and county coffers than to road safety; but speeds of up to 70 m.p.h. are tolerated at certain times and in certain conditions on dual carriageways in many areas. On some of these roads safer radar control is available through the existence of wide hard shoulders on both sides of the carriageway.

Many problems of congestion are attributable to driver behaviour which could be modified, not by levels of enforcement for which additional resources are never going to be available, but by adopting measures which would be fairer and more sensible in the eyes of the safe proportion of motorway users. These should include variable minimum and

maximum limits, particularly in overtaking lanes, accompanied by intermittent use of chevron distance-markings in overtaking lanes (as in France — two marks between each car in normal conditions) and the creation of a specific offence of following too closely (as in many states of the USA) for which enforcement technology exists.

On urban motorway stretches minimum/maximum overtaking lane limits, using computerized detection and control systems, may have to be as low as 30/40 m.p.h. On quieter stretches, on which a very high proportion of car drivers now seem to wish to drive, and do consistently drive safely in modern cars, at speeds of up to 80 m.p.h. but no higher, a minimum/maximum of 70/80 m.p.h. would be more appropriate.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH E. HUNTER,  
39 Moorfield Road,  
Ben Rhydydding, West Yorkshire.

From Mr Kyle Bosworth

Sir, If driving a car at 70 to 80 m.p.h. actually causes motorways to clog up, as has been suggested by some of your correspondents, then surely all sane-thinking people should immediately call for the motorway speed limit to be raised to 100 m.p.h., not lowered to 50 m.p.h., as has been suggested. The lower limit would cause even greater delays and congestion, and therefore increase still further the already significant drift back to both long-distance and short-distance railway travel.

The newly equipped railways with bright, warm and smooth-riding rolling-stock — particularly in the South-east — have come as a pleasing and comfortable surprise to all those thousands of motorists who, as the figures so dramatically show, have forsaken their cars for the first time or who are returning to railway travel after the madness and misery of motorway driving.

Yours faithfully,  
KYLE BOSWORTH,  
15 Gladsmuir Road,  
Highgate, N19.

## Stonehenge attitudes

From Dr Paul Ashbee

Sir, The British Druid Orders Scribe's plea (January 1) for peace and reasoned crowd control at Stonehenge although plausible is based upon inordinate claims regarding that monument's association with druidical activities. His letter is peppered with references to Stonehenge's "ancient purpose", "our Temple" and even "the ancient law of *Eisteddfod*", all of which are without foundation.

Present-day druidical performances at Stonehenge began in August, 1905, with a meeting of the Ancient Order of Druids, a friendly society, while another body, the Ancient Druid Order, began services at or near the summer solstice in 1909.

These, and other like groups, all have their origins in 18th-century romantic historical fantasy. Their first connection with an *Eisteddfod* was in 1819, in the garden of a

Carmarthen inn. They have nothing to do with the Druids described by Caesar, Pliny, Tacitus, and other classical writers and there is no evidence that those functionaries had anything to do with Stonehenge.

It is the duty of English Heritage to protect Stonehenge and its supportive landscape from the irreparable damage and mass hoodlism directly and indirectly connected with the solstice and the presence of the modern Druids. Lord Montagu, its chairman, is to be congratulated for his firm handling of a situation that has trespassed far beyond the socially acceptable.

Amid the tumult and shouting, claims and counter-claims, it is often forgotten that Stonehenge is Europe's premier prehistoric monument and its supportive landscape the richest.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL ASHBE,  
The Old Rectory,  
Chedgrave, Norwich, Norfolk.

## Cranmer's English

From Professor A. G. Dickens

Sir, The Reverend Christopher Pulin (December 22) is mistaken in alleging that Cranmer's Prayer Book was "ridiculed" by most contemporary English people, who in fact soon took it to their hearts, along with the parallel English Bible. Even in 1549 the Norfolk rebels attended the English services.

True, one of the several grievances of the Cornish rebels in the same year was that Cornishmen could not understand a Prayer Book in the English language. Yet did not Cranmer himself hit that nail on the head when he asked them how well they had understood Latin?

Yours faithfully,  
A. G. DICKENS,  
20 Darwin Court,  
Gloucester Road, NW1.

## Tyranny to democracy

From Mr James Joicey

Sir, Robert Kilroy-Silk's assertion (article, December 29) that "there has never been an occasion on which a dictatorship tyranny has given way peacefully and swiftly to the successful establishment of a pluralist democracy" surely overlooks the case of Portugal.

From the "Revolution of Flowers" of 1974 to membership of the European Community in little more than a decade, albeit with some initial political and economic wobbles, must be a shining example to those countries in Eastern Europe currently feeling their way towards democracy.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES JOICEY,  
Hall Cottage, Woodcote,  
Whitechurch, Hampshire.  
December 29.

## Seasonal swap

From Mr Richard Need

Sir, Once again the pictorial calendars are offering us the twin tautologies of bleak pictures to illustrate the winter months and gaudy gardens for June and July. Could not some enterprising publisher swap them round, giving us summer scenes in January to remind us of the delights to come and winter scenes later in the year to make us appreciate our British "summer" the more?

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD NEED,  
11 Hemmingsford Road,  
Chesham, Surrey.  
January 2.

## Name calling

From Mr B. A. Young

Sir, What boring names the children have whose birth is announced in *The Times* (January 1)! Here in Gloucestershire we go in for something more progressive. Among the local children I can count many a Jason and a Darren before I reach the less common Craig, Tyrone, Ashley, Justin and now and then a Steven and a Paul. Girls, of course, are Sharon, Karen or Claire.

Yours faithfully,  
B. A. YOUNG,  
Clyde House, 1 Station Street,  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

From Mrs M. Cowdill

Sir, Your survey of the most popular Christian names to be found in the Births Column having just been published, I searched in vain for a namesake.

Could it be that I am possessed of one of the most unpopular Christian names? Yours faithfully,  
MARIEGOLD COWDILL,  
Ullan, Lower Swell,  
Stow-on-the-Wold,  
Gloucestershire.





## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

**SANDRINGHAM**  
January 4: The Queen held a Council at 11.30 am.

There were present: The Right Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP (Lord President), the Lord Trevelyan (Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry), and the Right Hon Antony Newton, MP (Secretary of State for Social Security).

Mr Michael Howard, MP, was sworn in as a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, received the Seals of Office as Secretary of State for Employment, took the Oath of Office and kissed hands on appointment.

Mr Geoffrey de Deney was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Right Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP, had an audience of The Queen before the Council.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
January 4: The Princess Royal today visited Glasgow and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Glasgow (Mrs Susan Baird, the Right Hon the Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness opened the Annual Conference of the Institute of British Geographers at the University of Glasgow.

The Princess Royal then opened Queen's Cross Housing Association Development in Northpark Street and visited Maryhill Community Centre in Maryhill Road.

Afterwards Her Royal Highness visited the Royal Collection at Pollok Country Park. This evening The Princess

Royal Patron of the 1990 World Debating Championships, attended the World Debating Championship Final at the University of Glasgow.

Mrs Malcolm Wallace was in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
January 4: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President of Sadler's Wells Foundation and Trust, was present this evening at a Gala Performance by Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet in aid of the Frederick Ashton Studio at Sadler's Wells Theatre.

The Hon Mrs Willis was in attendance.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**  
January 4: Princess Alexandra, Patron of People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, was represented by Major Peter Clarke at the Memorial Service for Mr Edgar Rowling which was held at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, London, this afternoon.

The King of Spain celebrates his birthday today.

The Grand Duke of Luxembourg celebrates his birthday today.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent will visit Houston, Texas, from March 21 to 24, to attend the Houston International Festival.

**Today's royal engagement**

Princess Margaret will attend a performance by Austin Brothers Circus at Battersea Park at 11.30pm in aid of London Lighthouse and Body Positive.

## SCIENCE REPORT

### Ocean floor yields traces of past weather patterns

A subtle change in climate about 2.4 million years ago may have helped to start the sequence of ice ages that subsequently dominated Earth's climatic history.

In the Christmas issue of *Nature* (vol 342, pp 897-899), Jan Bloemendal, of the University of Rhode Island, and Peter de Menocal, of Columbia University, show how wind-blown dust recovered from ocean-floor sediments can be used to chart the changing history of weather patterns, which in turn can be related to the ultimate causes of cyclical patterns in climate.

Researchers today believe that long-term climate cycles, including the advance and retreat of glaciers during ice ages, are caused by small, regular changes in the way the Earth revolves around the Sun. This astronomical theory reached its apex in the work of the Serbian mathematician Milutin Milankovitch (1879-1958) who devoted 30 years to working out the causes of ice ages.

The final version of his theory was published in 1938. Milankovitch showed that ice ages were related to variations in the amount of sunshine at high latitudes. These variations stem mostly from a 41,000-year cyclical change in the Earth's axial tilt. The axis is at about 23 degrees to the horizontal, but varies systematically by a degree or

so either way. The Earth's orbit around the Sun is elliptical, and the shape of this ellipse also changes cyclically with a period of about 100,000 years.

Other orbital changes result in the "precession of the equinoxes", changes in the direction to which the Earth's axis points at particular times of year. For example, the winter solstice - the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere - falls on December 21, but the winter solstice 5,500 years ago fell in mid-September. Precession is related to two other cycles with periods of 19,000 and 23,000 years.

Even though these cycles were known before Milankovitch started to think about them just before the First World War, his synthesis is so compelling that researchers still refer to them as Milankovitch cycles.

Sediments on the ocean floor provide the best ways of studying Milankovitch cycles. The material from cores struck into the sediments is examined, layer by layer, for details of the chemistry of the minerals that make them up, and the form and distribution of the fossils they may contain. The information from all the layers can be pieced together to give a picture of climatic change over hundreds of thousands of years.

Bloemendal and de Menocal

have measured the changing propensity of sediments in cores to become magnetized, an indication of the amount of soil blown into the sea from land surfaces. The information from one of these cores, recovered from the floor of the Arabian Sea by scientists of the Ocean Drilling Program, shows the changing pattern of monsoon winds over the past 3.2 million years.

The monsoon is already known to be influenced by ice cover in the Northern Hemisphere (Science Report, 12 February 1988), so it is no surprise that the researchers' results match patterns of climate change observed by other methods of sediment analysis.

The new results, as with the old, echo the Milankovitch cycles for precession and axial tilt.

Intriguingly, though, the scientists show that monsoon patterns were primarily influenced by the 23,000- and 19,000-year precession cycles until about 2.4 million years ago, after which time the 41,000-year cycle in axial tilt became more important.

Exactly why this shift in emphasis occurred is not clear, but it could reflect a long-term trend in global climate that led ultimately to the ice ages.

Henry Gee

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## OBITUARIES

### VICE-ADMIRAL SIR CHARLES NORRIS

Tackling the Bismarck and the Tirpitz

Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Norris, KBE, CB, DSO, who has died, aged 89, spent most of a distinguished naval career at sea.

He was Second-in-Command of the cruiser HMS Sheffield in the Second World War, when it located the Bismarck, commanded HMS Bellona in operations against the Tirpitz, and was highly successful in attacks on German convoys and their escorts.

Born on December 16, 1900, Charles Fred Wivell Norris joined the Royal Navy in 1913 and went to Osborne and Dartmouth before going to sea in 1916 in the battleship HMS Hood.

After the war, he and other junior officers went on a course at Pembroke College, Cambridge, to complete their education.

He qualified in navigation in 1924 and between the wars served as navigating officer in ships at home and abroad. He commanded the sloop Aberdeen from 1938 to 1939 when it was the personal yacht of the C-in-C Mediterranean, Admiral Sir Dudley Pound.

In 1939, Norris joined the cruiser Sheffield as Second-in-Command. He saw action in the Norwegian campaign and as part of Force H against the Italian fleet off Cape Spartivento; he was also in the

Bismarck chase in May, 1941, when the Sheffield was nearly torpedoed by her own aircraft. He served under Mountbatten at Combined Operations before taking command of the new cruiser Bellona in 1943. He was mentioned in despatches after she was part of the naval force for the D-day landing at Omaha Beach.

Norris won a DSO for actions against enemy shipping in the Channel in July and August 1943, particularly for an action off St Nazaire when Bellona and four Canadian destroyers sank or seriously damaged an entire enemy convoy and its five escorts.

Later Bellona was part of the escort for aircraft strikes from Home Fleet carriers on the battleship Tirpitz in Norway. In November, 1943, Bellona with the cruiser Kent and four destroyers caught an enemy convoy off the Norwegian coast and sank two of the four ships and five of the six escorts.

During the winter of 1944-45, Bellona escorted three convoys to Murmansk. Norris was mentioned in despatches a second time after an action in January, 1945, when the cruisers Bellona and Norfolk with three destroyers sank two ships in a convoy and one escort. In 1945 Norris was appointed as Captain of the

Navigation School, HMS Dryad, where he laid down the foundations of the post-war Navigation and Direction Branch. It was due to his persistence that the "D-Day Wall Map", which was in HMS Dryad at Southwick House, the HQ of General Eisenhower in the months preceding D-Day, has been preserved as a monument there to this day.

In 1947, Norris went to the Imperial Defence College and was Captain of the Fleet in the Home Fleet from 1948 to 1950. The next two years, he was Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel and Director of Naval Training, his only desk job.

In 1952, he went as Flag Officer Flotillas, Mediterranean, based in Malta serving under Admiral Lord Mountbatten.

On promotion to Vice-Admiral Norris's last job was as C-in-C East Indies Fleet based in Ceylon.

He retired in 1956 and then took up the job of Director of the British Productivity Council until 1965.

He was appointed CB in 1952 and KBE in 1956.

Norris was a keen shot, a great cricket enthusiast, particularly of the game in Kent, and a liverman of the Leathersellers' Company. He is survived by his son.

### PATRICK KELLY

Black American dress flair in Paris

Patrick Kelly, the Mississippi-born dress designer and the first American to be welcomed as a member of Paris fashion's clique of ready-to-wear designers, died on January 1 in Paris of bone marrow disease. He was reported to be 40.

Carnival-coloured buttons and bows scattered with exuberance on snug, slinky designs became his signature style, enjoyed by a wide following of clients who included the Princess of Wales, Jane Seymour, the actress, and rock stars such as Madonna and Grace Jones. One of his closest friends was the actress Bette Davis, who used to wear Kelly's stretchy evening dresses in blue or black denim.

Kelly, born in Vicksburg where his mother was a school teacher, enjoyed describing himself as a "hillbilly". He was as vague about his age as he was about his company's turnover figures or how many brothers and sisters he had.

In 1972, halfway through his university studies, he gave up everything to pursue his real love of creating clothes, and persuaded a seamstress



Craving big city experience, Kelly headed for Atlanta, Georgia, and there first got a job delivering used clothes. By chance, however, he met a model who encouraged him to move to Parsons School of Design in New York and then to Paris to pursue a career. There his bright, clingy clothes, sold first from a street stall, won him the press coverage that encouraged him to set up his own business with a partner, Bjorn Amelan.

Dressed invariably in oversized overalls, the brim of his baseball cap jauntily tipped back, he was a cheery sight in the past several years racing around Paris on a skateboard.

Kelly's first collection in the French capital, made on a portable sewing machine, was shown in 1985. Top American stores such as Bergdorf Goodman and Bloomingdale's both bought his first designs. With secure financial backing from the American fashion giant, Warnaco, Kelly went on to international success with his short, tight suits and shift dresses decorated with bows, sequins and trademark buttons.

### PETER BENNETT

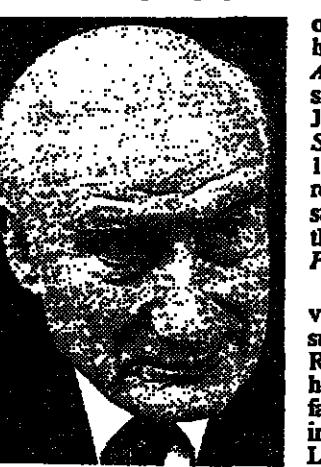
A polished and thoroughly professional actor

Peter Bennett, who has died aged 72, was what could be described as an actor's actor. Though he played relatively few leading parts, his name on a programme across 50 years meant a piece of assured professionalism.

From the first Bennett was fortunate in his malleable countenance and it might have been said that one of his recreations "collecting assorted objects" was a reasonable summary of a sustained career in which, the stage aside, he appeared consistently on films, TV, and radio.

Born in London on September 17, 1917, the son of Major R.H.E. Bennett, he was educated at Malvern and studied for the stage at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Straight from drama school he went into what became a customary run of supporting parts. In those immediate prewar days he had the best of training. He was a member of Robert Atkins's Open Air Theatre company during the celebrated summer season of 1939, appearing in such parts as The Pandar in *Pericles* and



of parts that included one of his favourites, Face in *The Alchemist* (King's, Hammer-smith, August, 1945), and John Dashwood in *Sense and Sensibility* (Embassy, August, 1946). During this period he repeated on the New York stage one of his London parts, the Corporal in *Loves Goes To Press* (1947).

In subsequent years his variety of casting continued at such a theatre as the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, where he found another of his favourite characters, Scrooge, in *A Christmas Carol* (1950). Later, among much else he acted Long in *The Wooden Dish* at Guildford (1955), Carlos in *The Strong Arm Lonely* (Piccadilly), and again Scrooge at The Arts, Cambridge (December, 1966, and on tour). He was with Michael Redgrave as Mr. Soile in one of his last plays, *The Old Boys*, at the Mermaid in July, 1971, and on tour.

He was a council member of British Actors' Equity, 1970-76, and was a familiar figure at the Garrick Club.

His wife survives him.

### MARGARET GORDON

Artist who first realised "The Wombles"

Margaret Gordon, the children's book illustrator, died on December 31 at the age of 50. Although her name was not widely known, her visualisation of Elisabeth Beresford's characters "The Wombles" served as the basis for the popular television series.

She was born Margaret Anna Easton on May 19, 1939, the daughter of two professional musicians. This, she later claimed, gave her an artistic temperament but ensured that she did not take up music as a career. Instead, her love of drawing turned her attention to fine art and she studied at St Martin's, Cambridge, and the Central School of Arts and Crafts.

On leaving, she combined part-time teaching with painting and enjoyed a successful first exhibition of her work in 1965. It was while she was taking her portfolio round publishers' offices that she had met John Gordon whom she married in 1964.

Margaret Gordon's earliest commissions came from Macmillan where the children's books editor, Kevin Crossley-Holland, asked her to illustrate a version of *Noah's Journey* by George McBeth. This led to collaboration with Crossley-Holland and their picture-book version of *The Green Children* (1966) was awarded an Arts Council prize as the best book for children published between 1966 and 1968.

The partnership continued through two further picture books on East Anglian traditional tales, *The Cullow Pit Coffer* (1968) and *The Peddler of Swaffham* (1971), after which Margaret Gordon worked with her husband on a nursery book, *Walter and the Ballon* (1974), and made a set of charming decorations for the ballad *A Paper of Tins* (1975).

She showed considerable versatility in adapting her spare, flat, almost emblematic, colour work to the

varying themes of the stories. Her pleasure at the same time in drawing was shown in the many black-and-white pictures she provided for Alison Jazard's story series about a teddy-bear called Albert and for the many "Wombles" titles. In the latter case, however, she found her original conceptions had to be modified, and coarsened, when the stories achieved success on television.

Margaret Gordon subsequently devoted much of her energy to her family and only in recent years had she resumed her career as an illustrator, mostly making picture books to test of her own devising.

Works like *The Supermarket Mice* (1984) and the series about a bear called "Wilberforce" feature anthropomorphised animals whose fuzzy appearance and cheerful resilience seem to relate them to the Wombles. She is survived by her husband and three children.



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### The College of Occupational Therapists

A celebration dinner will be held on January 15, 1990, at the Royal London Hospital in collaboration with a special conference on head injuries organised by the College of Occupational Therapists. The Department of Neurosurgery at the Royal London Hospital and the Royal Automobile Club in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal. For further information please contact Jennifer Palmer at the College of Occupational Therapists, telephone 01-357 6480 ext 206.

### Charterhouse

The Long Quarter began yesterday, J. Crayke is Head of School and A.T.B. Krick is Deputy Head. T.E. Skipwith is Captain of Hockey and E.H. Ashby is Captain of Football. Back to from Friday, February 9, to Tuesday, February 13, Charterhouse Musicians will give a lunchtime concert at St Lawrence Jewry-near-Guildhall at 1 pm on Thursday, March 8. The Quarter ends on Wednesday, March 21.

### Collingham Tutors

The Spring Term began on Wednesday, January 3, and ends on Friday, March 30. Half term is from February 21 to 26. The A-level Trial Exams are from March 27 to 30. The Easter Revision Courses will be held between March 28 and April 12.

### New Governor of Guernsey

Lieutenant General Sir Michael Wilkin has been appointed Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey, in succession Lieutenant General Sir Alexander Bogwell. Sir Michael, who is a former Commandant General, Royal Marines, will take office later this year.

### Rugby School

The Lent Term at Rugby School begins on Sunday, January 7, and ends on Saturday, March 3. The Easter Term is from Thursday, February 15 to Tuesday, February 20. Leave-out weekends are January 27/28, and March 10/11. S.P. Corkill continues as Head of School; R.O. Slack is holder of Bigside Bags. The House Plays will be performed on Saturdays from February 3. The Lent Addresses will be given from March 12 to 16, by Brigadier General Sir John St. John. Confirmation Day is Sunday, March 18. The School Orchestral Concert will be on Friday, March 23.

### Memorial service

Mr Edward Bowden  
A memorial service for Mr Edward Bowden was held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly. The Rev Donald Reeves officiated. Mr Peyton Skipwith read from the works of William Hazlitt and Mr Roger de Grey, P.R.A., from the works Sir John Bowden. Sir Hugh Casson, C.H., gave an address.

### Reception

English-Speaking Union  
Mr Anthony Westridge, Deputy Chairman of the English-Speaking Union, and Mr David Hicks, director-general, welcomed the guests at a reception held yesterday at Dartmouth House to mark the departure of the 1990 British ESU scholars to North America.

### Dinner

Royal College of General Practitioners  
Professor Denis Pereira Gray, Chairman of Council, was host at a dinner last night for the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Sir George Pinker, Professor V.R. Tindall, Miss M. Anderson and Dr N. Patel attended, and other guests included Dr S. Carne, Dr M. McBride and Dr W. McN. Styles.







## THE ARTS

## Grim view of the decade ahead

TELEVISION  
William Holmes

Now that the Nineties are here, we had better face the fact that messages of future hope are only half the story; many of us will end the decade dead. In *Ending Up* (ITV), neatly adapted by Douglas Livingstone from the Kingsley Amis novel, a quintet of old misanthropes did just that.

Confined within the walls of Tuppenny-happenny Cottage (except for brief forays to the village in the Morris Minor by Adela, when she could find the car keys) these tired old souls had little to do but annoy each other.

Hopeful of causing some terminal crisis over Christmas, Brigadier Bernard (John Mills, far too nice for the part) engaged in jolly japes like planting stink bombs, having the dog destroy Christmas cards, and generally fermented discontent among the inhabitants. Of the others, Michael Hordern's touching George was the sweetest, bedridden with a stroke, constantly boring the others with extensive reminiscences.

Laughs came principally from the kiddie-winkie language of cat-bested Marigold, who suspects she is beginning to forget things, and is thus an easy prey to Bernard's malice. And Wendy Hiller's dotty Adela seems comparatively saintly in her attempts to restore harmony where there is discord, which is pretty well everywhere.

Some variety is necessary to push this grim tale through 90 minutes, and it is inadequately supplied by relatives. Knowing of the tensions of a multi-generational family Christmas, one feels Amis's portrayal misses all its chances. Even the children behave well.

No doubt this is to emphasize how badly the adults behave. Yet the joke wears thin even before Bernard's terminal practical joke of attempting to cut the telephone wire from the top of a rickety ladder.

Of course there were marvellous performances from the vintage (in all senses) cast in Peter Saddy's production, with a super cameo from Lionel Jeffries as Bernard's old batman, Shorty; let us hope they did not find it too depressing an inauguration of the new decade.

Nevertheless, I thought the whole exercise slightly too cleverly cynical for its own good, and not quite funny enough.

John Russell Taylor looks at exhibitions of Futurist architectural designs and the goldsmith's craft

## Visions that stay dreams

Visionary architects usually stick at visions only *faute de mieux*: if they had some Maccenas to help them realize their dreams, they would be more than happy to do so. This was certainly the case with Antonio Sant'Elia, whose brief but dazzling career is commemorated in his centenary year, with a spectacular show imported from Italy by London's Accademia Italiana, 24 Rutland Gate (January 10-February 24).

Sant'Elia was a visionary in much the same way as Boullée and other architects of the French Revolution. Most of the buildings he projected were feasible, given limitless resources and a giant leap forward in the minds and habits of their putative users. None of them was actually built during his lifetime, and the only one built after his death was changed from a lighthouse to a war memorial. But then, he was only 28 when he was killed in the First World War, only just starting out on his practical career. Many of his surviving drawings were done while he was still a student, and start from the rather dotty kind of projects frequently assigned to students in the first decade of the century. But Sant'Elia's designs rise above the generalities of monumental fantasies because of the refinement of their draughtsmanship and the bounding invention he brings to even the flimsiest pretext.

Sant'Elia is usually classified as a Futurist - reasonably enough in terms of his milieu, his interests and his participation in the very Futurist project of the "Citta Nuova" - but the drawings are not at all what we might expect to see under such a label. Naturally enough, they begin in Art Nouveau intricacy, but by the time of the Citta Nuova in 1914 they have shed all affectation, and simply convey, with extraordinary directness and precision, what was in his mind. The progression stretches, over no more than three or four years, from Gormenghast to Fritz Lang's Metropolis: or, given the sleek elegance of outline, even further, towards the Deco *Shape of Things to Come*. Contemporary German Expressionist architects such as Poelzig drew in the same style as Expressionist painters; Sant'Elia thinks in terms of the future, but beyond that has little to do stylistically with the Boccionis and the Ballas.

So it is especially illuminating to have his work related in this show to a group with whom he had more in common. As well as early drawings by important Futurists

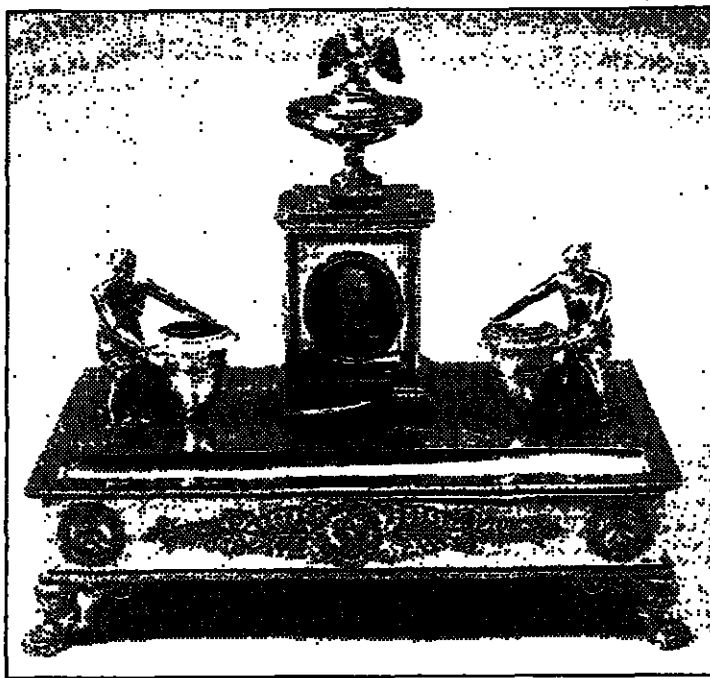


Turner and the Art of Engraving: taking his colourful and vague style to the public through line drawings

such as Boccioni and Carra, there are very interesting works by Italian artists who are little known in this country, such as the satirical Expressionist Aroldo Bonzagai and his kindred spirit Carlo Erba, both of whom, like Sant'Elia and Boccioni, were victims, one way or another, of the First World War. Here too is the first abstraction by Romolo Romani, a Symbolist who drifted into abstraction by way of esoteric philosophy. But the focus is Sant'Elia himself. Once seen, his visions of power-plants and towering apartment blocks are never forgotten. Most past visions of the future look all dusty and dated, but with any luck, Sant'Elia's future is still ahead of us.

Visions of another kind are the stuff of The Glory of the Goldsmith, an amazing accumulation of gold and silver from the Al-Tajir Collection, which forms the holiday show at Christie's this year (until January 21). But apparently they are visions which do not appeal to everybody. In front of a glittering display which includes the Madame Mère silver-gilt dinner service (1806) and the Pavlovitch silver-gilt dinner service (1809-19), I overheard the following conversation:

"Don't like it?"  
"No - it'd collect dust."  
"Well, it would, wouldn't it?"



Masterpiece: an Empire silver-gilt inkstand at the Christie's show

There is no answer to that, except of course that if you had been in a position to own any of these extravaganzas in the first place, you would presumably have had so many servants to do the cleaning and polishing that dust would be your least worry.

It is certainly not a show for egalitarians, who might well feel more than a sneaking sympathy with those revolutionaryaries through the centuries whose first move has been to head for the nearest palace and melt down all such evidences of privilege.

However, for those who love to gawp at "treasures" of all sorts, this is a feast indeed: the sheer mass of gold and silver is overwhelming, and the layout of the show, with as many pieces as possible shown in their proper historical context - laid out on dinner tables or sideboards - does make one wonder who nowadays could eat unselfconsciously off these plates, or drink from these goblets.

Some are always going to find the hardness and inhumanity of plate off-putting, but from the design point of view much here is impressive, and sometimes entrancing. The stars who emerge are Paul de Lamerie, whose early 18th-century silver reaches unmatched heights of rococo elegance and invention, Paul Storr, some of whose work steps right out of its time (for example, the George III punchbowl decorated with modelled flowers, which could almost be Arts-and-Crafts), and some of the French Empire silversmiths, such as Jean-Baptiste-Claude Odier, who was responsible for the Madame Mère dinner service, inkstand and such. There are also remarkable pieces designed by artists and carried out by craftsmen: Flaxman's Shield of Achilles, silver-gilt, more than three feet across, is mind-boggling whichever way you look at it.

Mentioning the designer-craftsman relationship reminds me that at the Tate until January 21, there is a fascinating show, *Colour into Line*, which concerns the dry-sounding subject of how Turner's brilliantly coloured and often impressionistically vague designs were translated, under his supervision, into black-and-white line engravings. Turner was the last major artist to take it for granted that this sort of translation had to be done in order to disseminate his work among the widest possible public. Just over the horizon was the advent of photography, and the specialized craft of engraving, as creative translation was doomed to extinction.

But here one has to wonder, time after time, at the profound intelligence with which an engraver went mad that he had some chance of emerging, like Blake, as a visionary. But in general, translating another man's visions seems to have been quite enough.

## A voice to carry

CONCERTS  
Hilary FinchAndreas Schmidt  
Wigmore Hall

To most British ears Andreas Schmidt is principally known as the young baritone from the Deutsche Oper Berlin who made his Covent Garden debut last year as *Così*'s Guglielmo. His South Bank Winterreise the year before did not make waves, and as yet no major record company has marketed him with half the energy reserved for a Bar or a Blochwitz.

But Schmidt, whose sophisticated artistry and thorough musical understanding are now enlivened by new confidence and character, may well be the voice to make it most impressively into the next century. The maturity of perception which made Schubert's "Der Wanderer" and Wolf's "Härenspieler" songs so penetrating is matched by a fresh, sharp vocal focus, a sense of technical well-being with plenty of space and sap for future growth.

The voice is nourished by breath finely enough controlled to etch out almost imperceptibly, yet with a miniaturist's care, the particular character of each phrase, without ever compromising the energy of its movement. Only in the more ruddy-cheeked figure of a song like Schubert's "Der Schiffer" or Wolf's "Der Rattenfänger" does it still baulk, though I suspect Schmidt would have little to lose if he dared exercise his vocal cords more robustly.

For the moment, though, the detail is to be relished, for Schmidt's quality of imagination and ability to listen for the particular "voice" of each song are undoubtedly influenced by Fischer-Dieskau (who taught him), though articulated in a legato which would be the envy even of his mentor. Whether in the unearthly lights of "Der Zwerg" or holding together the exultation and regret in "Wehnmut", each Schubertian moment is specific yet integrated, literate yet essentially born of the music.

The second half of Schmidt's performance was a fitting finale to Geoffrey Parsons's valuable series of all of Wolf's Goethe Lieder. Above all, such songs as "Prometheus" and "Grenzen der Menschheit" tested and proved Schmidt's stature as a Lieder singer: he paced himself through their massive physical and emotional scope with a concentration equalled only by Parsons's outstanding accompaniments.

David Warrilow, leading interpreter of the late Samuel Beckett's plays, talks to Denise Heywood

## Shining through catastrophe

One of the most eminent actors of Beckett's work, David Warrilow is currently in London for performances of *Catastrophe* and *Krapp's Last Tape*. Although *Krapp* is better known, *Catastrophe* is of particular interest now because of its dedication to Vaclav Havel, the Czech playwright and dissident now presiding over his country's extraordinary changes.

It is a short play about a play. Warrilow, who appeared in its American world premiere and at the Edinburgh Festival in 1984, plays the Protagonist, standing silently on a plinth, being moulded and rearranged by a tyrannical Director and his Assistant (Tom Knight and Christina Paul). Comical yet sinister, it is a metaphor for human oppression, suggesting manipulation, cruelty and dictatorship.

"What's happening in the Eastern bloc is the result of positive, light-filled action in the world, and Beckett's gesture in dedicating this play to Havel is just one of the things that brought about the

disintegration of communism," says Warrilow. It is equally significant for the director, Antoni Libera, who is Polish.

Like Beckett, Warrilow avoids explaining the plays, believing they can be interpreted in many ways. "For God's sake! This crazy for explication! Every I dotted to death!" exclaims a character in *Catastrophe*.

Warrilow relates how, during its recent run in Leicester, a woman asked him to elucidate. "You tell me what your experience was," he replied. "I'm a nurse" she volunteered, "and I think it was about hospitals. It's like doctors and nurses, the way they treat patients."

"Fantastic!" exclaimed Warrilow.

Another Beckett actress, Billie Whitelaw, claims to understand nothing of his plays, but Warrilow is more analytical. Born in Staf-

fordshire, he studied French at Reading University, and was an editor of the arts magazine *Realities* in Paris for 11 years before becoming an actor. Acting changed his life. "I was born an actor, but chose not to practise until then." In 1970, at 36, he left his job, went to New York, where he still lives, and started performing Beckett's work in French and English, winning several awards.

Invited by the producer Joseph Papp to do a solo evening of Beckett at New York's Public Theatre in 1977, Warrilow boldly asked the playwright to write something for him. Beckett asked him to elaborate. "I had an image of a man on stage with a light shining from above in such a way that you couldn't see his face, so he was standing in a pool of light, and talking about death. It was not an easy thing to say to an elderly gentleman. But I had to be

honest." A year later "an unfinished, abandoned fragment" arrived, followed by the title, and Warrilow performed *A Piece of Monologue* in 1979 in New York.

He disagrees with the view that Beckett's plays have a "terrible finality". When the curtain closes, he points out, that person is still there. "One of the main themes is how people keep going. He's saying: 'Well, this isn't really much, but we have to keep getting up one more time', and I find that tremendously affirmative. He sets up bleak circumstances and isolated characters, but in such a way that this marvellous light appears, of humour and a certain kind of integrity and exploration of the self."

Warrilow has striven to transform his own world into a positive, light-filled one, similar to that he thinks of as Beckett's. Having lived through the excesses

of the Sixties and Seventies in Paris and New York, he has undergone a spiritual rebirth. "Meditation and contemplation are the cornerstone of my day." Now 55, he no longer drinks or smokes. Tall and elegant, he dresses with impeccable taste, but less flamboyantly than before, while in performance he vividly conveys the stark, etiolated characters of Beckett's world.

Audiences in Leicester emerged elated from these performances. "There's been a change in the way we perceive Beckett's plays... a willingness now to go beyond that image of desolation and go to the humanity of it." With the immense changes in the world, especially for Havel, Warrilow hopes these plays will be stimulating and uplifting. "That's how I feel," he concludes. "I feel invigorated by the literature."

Leicester Haymarket's production of *Catastrophe* and *Krapp's Last Tape* is at Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W6 (01-748 3354), from Monday to January 27

Open interpretation: David Warrilow in Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape*

## Another golden era dawns over Berlin

Paul Moor reports on the cultural life flowing through the gaps in the Wall

Berlin finds itself on the threshold of what might develop into a new Golden Age, such as this great city enjoyed during the Weimar Republic from 1918 to 1933. The breaching of the Wall on November 9 makes it likely that the separate cultural identities of West and East Berlin will be united. Subsidies from West Germany have made West Berlin the most luxurious iron lung in the world, home to numerous cultural and intellectual institutions that one could legitimately call great. Meanwhile, during the post-war years, East Berlin has inherited and developed at least two new institutions of world rank - Walter Felsenstein's Komische Oper and Bertolt Brecht's Berliner Ensemble - while maintaining the State Opera, Max Reinhardt's old Deutsches Theater, the Pergamon Museum, and so on.

Now, the city's cultural leaders have set about renewing contacts and co-operation. To cite one example, Siegfried Mathus, East Germany's leading composer and a member of the Komische Oper's dramaturgical staff, has invited the executive directors of Berlin's three opera houses to an open meeting on January 21; this will mark the first return visit of Götz



Götz Friedrich, of Deutsche Oper: heading east to re-establish contact

Friedrich, now head of West Berlin's Deutsche Oper, to the house where he built his reputation.

But some sardonic Berliners have expressed scepticism as to whether Friedrich's two colleagues will still hold their jobs by the time that meeting takes place. As revelations on fraud, embezzlement and outright theft have turned East Germany's ruling party into a sinking ship, those who have abandoned it include a long list of administrators who dominated East Germany's cultural institutions for many years.

At the Komische Oper today,

few traces remain of the great theatrical genius Walter Felsenstein - Harry Kupfer's production of *The Bartered Bride* has even jettisoned Felsenstein's trail-blazing translation - but as soon as I entered the auditorium and found the side of a rustic barn instead of a curtain (the sets are by Reinhart Zimmermann), I knew I had returned to the Komische Oper.

Over on the Unter den Linden, the State Opera opened a new *Prince Igor* featuring boldly effective staging, a powerful cast, impressively unconventional decor and choreography, and a first-

rate conductor (Walter Weller) who, for once, made this problematic score not only interesting but downright exciting.

Meanwhile, the Berliner Ensemble is performing *Baal*, Brecht's early, nasty play about a disgusting poet whose hostility towards women closely resembles Brecht's own. It affords Ekkehard Schall occasion for a narcissistic orgy of self-indulgence in which he barely stops short of chewing the scenery and the carpets. Carl Zuckmayer's satirical comedy, *The Captain From Kopenick*, by contrast, proved sly and deft, and was played in the gritty Berlin proletarian dialect which is music to the initiated ear.

In West Berlin, the Schaubühne maintains its standing among the world's top theatrical companies. Peter Stein's production of *The Cherry Orchard* runs four hours, but one regrets its coming to an end. It almost obliterates memory of every other production of Chekhov's masterpiece I have seen, with its subtle evocation of mood and atmosphere, its poignant interweaving of poetry and social reality. Julia Lampe, as Madame Ranevskaya, headed an excellent cast which included no one less than excellent.

THEATRE  
Jeremy KingstonThe Breasts of Tiresias  
Duke of Cambridge

Guillaume Apollinaire, author of this surrealist play (for which he coined the word), is dear to me as the author, too, of a pornographic novel that enriched my adolescence. Champion of the Cubists and a man of spritely imagination, as *The Breasts of Tiresias* demonstrates, he died of Spanish flu two days before the end of the Great War, and was buried on Armistice Day.

As his funeral procession moved towards the Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris, crowds cursed the name of Guillaume, but it was Kaiser Bill they meant, not the artist.

The confusion would have delighted him, since he relished puns. His puns do not translate, but Kanyar Atabai's lively version at the pub theatre (at 64 Lawford Road, Kenilworth, London) captures more of the play's spirit than one dared hope. The work led directly nowhere in the history of 20th-century drama, yet indirectly its amalgam of nonsense and nonsense, the abrupt arrival of seemingly everyday characters, and its batty confrontations pop up a generation later, again in Paris, in the Absurd playwrights of the Fifties.

In England it is radio and

## Delightful confusion in style of Python

television comedy that are his true descendants: the first act closes with a courtly dance for a man dressed as his wife, a policeman, a dead duellist and an ambulating newspaper kiosk. End with the words "And now for something completely different" and you have a quintessential Monty Python sketch.

The play is set in Zanzibar and The People of Zanzibar (non-speaking role) sit at the side of the stage, represented by Martin Seager wearing fez, red face paint and blue lips. He may not utter a word but he punctuates the speeches of others with flourishes on drums, whistles and other tinny instruments, while maintaining a grave interest in the bizarre doings of Therese and her husband.

It is Therese (Anna Ziman, blue face) who decides she will be a man. She releases her breasts as two balloons, dancing with them for a moment before popping them and announcing that she will henceforward be known as Tiresias.

Her husband (Ged Simmons) takes on the function of mother, gives birth to 40,000 before nightfall, is propositioned by the amorous gendarme and bears the modestly serious weight of the

play, an appeal to Frenchmen everywhere to breed faster.

Darius Gilmont's cardboard cut-out designs delightfully answer Apollinaire's request for a non-naturalist theatre. Even today, when the novelty of such effects is past, and the earnest delivery of incongruous remarks is familiar dramatic luggage - even today, 70 years after its Paris premiere, the bravura of the wildly veering storyline races you along. Apollinaire wanted his play to interest and to entertain, and, though both dip somewhat as the end nears, Kanyar Atabai's buoyant direction for his Truffaut Theatre Company gracefully achieves its author's ambitions.

The production is also noteworthy for disclosing in a programme note where it differs from the published text. All the stage-directions have been followed: the scraps of poetry blasted at us through a megaphone.

But we are told that the prologue, delivered by the black-caped director, has been shorn of some Great War references, and that some songs have been given an extra chorus. In a play so little known and hard to locate, these revelations are unusually audience-friendly. I wish all productions were so considerate.



# THE ARTS/ROCK

Students, the trend-setters in music, are shunning live bands – bar the selected Manchester group – and going back to the discos. Steve Turner reports

## Colleges swing to dancing

The college and university circuit has, since the late Sixties, been presumed to offer a useful indication of the developing musical tastes of the intelligent and soon-to-be-affluent young. What goes down well in the Students' Union this year could be a recognizable feature in the pop cultural landscape the year after next.

Paul McCartney chose an unannounced lunchtime concert at Nottingham University in 1972 to launch his post-Beatles performing career with Wings. Three years later the Sex Pistols made their first appearance at St Martin's College of Art, London. Almost all of the internationally successful British bands of the Eighties were once a buzz on the college circuit.

So what is going down well on the college circuit today? Mainly dance music. Students are shunning live bands in favour of the Saturday night disco.

At Cardiff University, for instance, the main attraction is The Hanging Garden, a 1,100-capacity nightclub which sells out three nights a week but which can draw only 500 for a live band on Tuesdays. "On the whole, students prefer a disco atmosphere," explains entertainment manager Tracy Holdsworth. At London University, where Peter Robertson is responsible for the entertainment of 55,000 students, the discos are going "brilliantly", whereas live shows are "going okay".

According to Robertson, "there seemed to be a bit of a revival in live music when bands such as Texas and Transvision Vamp came along, but we appear to have got dancy again just lately."

It is the same story at Manchester University ("less and less into live bands"), Middlesex

Polytechnic ("our discos sell out every week") and Brunel University ("younger people want to go to clubs and raves").

So what is driving students out of the concert halls and on to the dance floors? The development of house music and hip-hop has given power to the turntable and encouraged disc jockeys to develop new skills. Mixers and rappers from Jive Bunny to De La Soul exemplify this trend.

According to Geoff Ellis, entertainment manager for Middlesex Polytechnic, students are not willing to take risks on unknown artists. "If they are spending £3 to see a live band, they want it to be an established act. They won't spend that money on someone they haven't heard of. They'd rather spend £1 for a guaranteed good time at the disco."

Cardiff's Tracy Holdsworth notes much the same thing. "Value for money is the most important issue in student entertainment," she says. "People make judgments based on the ticket price in relation to how well-known the band is."

Dance music, though, can be a broad category. Most colleges employ local DJs and students to programme their evenings and expect to hear oldies and hits from independent labels as well as house music and rare groove. "Student prefer not to go to places where the music goes on all night at the same number of beats per minute," says Peter Robertson. "They prefer a good selection of music from Abba to *Saturday Night Fever*, to the latest dance tracks and Stone Roses."

The bands who do pull a crowd are either unsigned or on one of the independent labels. Major record companies get a look in by sponsoring showcase tours. The big college hits of the past



Stone Roses: popular gig which was named "the band of the year" and priced itself out of student budgets

12 months have been, without any doubt, the new wave of Manchester bands: Stone Roses, Happy Mondays and Inspiral Carpets. But, as each gains national recognition, they are slipping beyond student union budgets. Stone Roses, who play a lilting brand of Sixties West Coast psychedelia, while dressing in anoraks and outrageous Seventies flares, could be hired for £300 a year ago. Now, after being called "the band of the year" by *New Musical Express* and having their debut album voted "album of the year" by *Sounds*, they will not be playing anywhere for less than £5,000.

Rob Ballantyne, who books the entertainment for Manchester University, has found himself surrounded by home-grown talents. "Everything seems to be happening around us at the moment," he says. "Bands that have done fairly well locally over the past year are now taking over nationally."

He recalls booking Happy Mondays as a support act in October 1988 and finding the event voted "worst gig of the year" by a local magazine. Three months later, the band sold out the university's largest hall (capacity 1,000) and are now set to sell out OMEGA (capacity 8,000). "I think the

Manchester bands epitomize the youth culture of today," says Ballantyne. "It's music that has come from the streets rather than from the marketing departments of major record companies."

The youth culture they epitomize, he says, is one where fashion and drugs are seen as means of escape from the mundanity of life in areas of high crime and unemployment. "Students like these bands because in university life you get a bit alienated from people your own age who are outside the educational system."

Raj Patel, who booked Stone Roses at Brunel University last April, says: "Their live show is



Happy Mondays: Manchester street music is still in great demand

brilliant. That's what got me into them. Then I bought their album and I thought it was incredible. It's hard to say what they represent. It's just a strange feeling they produce with their music."

"When they did their big show at Alexandra Palace they had a house disco before they came on, playing records such as De La Soul. I can see them mixing the acid culture with their own type of music. They'll extend their following by getting the house people into their music, as well as the musos."

Ellis believes that bands hoping to succeed on the college circuit today will need to embrace the dance sound. "The live music that sells out tends to have a crossover appeal for the dance crowd. People such as Happy Mondays and 808 State appeal to just such a mixed audience and I believe that's where the future lies."

Other bands whose names crop up regularly when discussing successful events on the college circuit are the Wedding Present, the Wonder Stuff, Beautiful South, the Darling Buds, the Jesus

and Mary Chain and The Men They Couldn't Hang. Tipped to do well this year are The Wood Children, James, Asia Fields, Family Cat and the Snapdragons. Bands such as House of Love and the Sugar Cubes, who were believed to be destined for great things by "indie" watchers not so long ago, are now deemed to have passed their sell-by date. "House of Love were big 15 months ago," says one young entertainment manager, "but their single did no business."

Many students, of course, have tastes as mainstream as the rest of their peers. College CD juke boxes reveal that Simply Red and Fine Young Cannibals – "coffee table rock" according to one entertainment manager – can be as popular as Stone Roses.

"In surveys of students' tastes in music Dure Straits come out tops, year in, year out," says Peter Robertson of London University. "In this students are not much different from anyone else. It's young people who like that sort of music. There are also a lot of students who like Iron Maiden."

## Deep rich blues fading into pale atmosphere

As Eric Clapton launches his concert series, David Toop mourns the lack of substance in Eighties music



Eric Clapton: playing frustrated music, lacking real satisfaction

There is a failsafe method for catching a severe dose of the blues in the week that follows Christmas: sit in front of a television set which is showing the popular music landmarks of the past decade. The exercise may begin in a spirit of guarded optimism but it inevitably declines into dismay. Was rock really this bad?

The impression delivered by programmes such as BBC 2's *Eighties* and the *Top of the Pops Review of the Eighties* was sobering. The short-lived fashion bands such as Spandau Ballet now look as endearingly kitsch and sound as tinny as anything from the laughable Seventies. Non-mainstream music, the source of rock and soul inspiration, is allowed a fraction more recognition than it once was given, yet, for the most part, it remains a rich secret. At the centre, meanwhile, there is a music increasingly devoid of spirit and individual character.

No matter what their musical origins, acts such as Phil Collins, Tina Turner and Eric Clapton have clustered safely together in the middle of the road. They may still be capable of turning on the noise, the bluster and the meaningful messages, but before long they will be displacing the Des O'Connor generation of all-round, easy listening, light entertainers.

There is a famous film clip from 1960 which captures the moment when Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley attempted a duet; the result still has an ability to make us squirm. Such unbridgeable divisions barely seem to exist now in the upper echelons of rock. Being a Christian; sharing a concern for the same charity or urgent social or ecological issues; simply being a heavy-weight contender in the compact disc market; all of these extra-musical considerations seem sufficient to motivate bizarre and unhappy pairings.

When big stars decide to work together it is a gift to the gods of marketing. In November, the irascible Jerry Lee Lewis was persuaded (clearly with temptations of a financial rather than artistic nature) to perform with a ludicrously ill-matched set of rock stars, including Brian May from Queen. When the concert is screened on television this year it will be aimed, no doubt, at the kind of general purpose rock fan who couldn't care less about the incompatibility of Queen's bombastic low-brow rock and Lewis's archaic country boogie.

This month, and running into February, Eric Clapton will be appearing at the Royal Albert Hall for an impressive series of

appearances. The music promises to be less impressive than the length of the engagement, however. For some time, Clapton's career, apparently paralysed by a large poster advertising his most recent album, *Journeyman*, almost entirely lacking in distinguishable melodies or truly inspired playing, *Journeyman* is typical of the new easy listening (but loud) rock.

Certainly there are traces of Clapton's past: a blues lick here and there, a few bars of solo guitar which promise some excitement, the familiar plod of self-pitying country rock and the infinite repetitions of middle-aged romantic disappointments.

This battered emotional sourness, combined with perfectly honed musical reminders of a past age when blues, soul and rock were raw, socially marginal forms of expression, is obviously a winning formula at which Clapton excels. He has a well publicized past of drug addiction, alcoholism and blighted love affairs to provide autobiographical back-up for the misery of the songs he chooses and a conferred god-like status to substantiate his musical reputation.

For all the bleeding heart honesty and the brilliant accomplishment of his guitar playing, his music is beset by shallowness and a mechanical excellence lacking in any sense of satisfaction. It is frustrated music, partly because Clapton does it so well, and partly because he knows his mentors did it better. Blues guitarists such as Otis Rush, Buddy Guy, the late Freddy King and B B King gave Clapton his style but could not imbue him with the profound depths contained within the best of their music.

The speed with which the blues has been transformed is extraordinary. Paul Oliver, who has written more eloquently about the blues than anybody, first heard black American singers in 1942, as a teenage farmworker in Suffolk. "The two men were singing, swooping, undulating, unintelligible words, and the back of my neck tingled," is how he described his experience of hearing black soldiers sing blues as they dug a trench.

This magical, fantastical quality has been entirely lost in the ensuing years. The leftover remains, such as they are, bear little relation to the blues; instead, they are a peripheral ingredient, a little touch of seasoning for music which has ruthlessly steamed itself free of all flavour.



B.B. King: provided the style, but kept the profound depths

## Surreal sense in thoughtful rap rhyme

David Sinclair

Divine Styler featuring the Scheme Team: *Word Power* (Epic/Rhyme Syndicate 7464 45299-1). Blink, and you have missed at least two or three game moves in rap, such is the speed with which new influences and stylistic permutations are being absorbed and reinvented by the latest breed of young rappers these days.

Divine Styler, aged 19, who was born in Brooklyn but has spent much of his teens shuttling between New York and Los Angeles, seems to have taken on board the entire history of rap from Gil Scott-Heron to De La Soul, together with everything from its reggae antecedents, to the latest word house-rap hybrids and beyond.

As well as jumbling all this up and then reassembling it on his *Word Power* album like a conjurer

miraculously pulling realigned strings of coloured scarves out of a hat, Styler also throws in his own irregular stream-of-consciousness style of declamation, a highly personalized patois that begins to make a surreal sort of sense when decoded on the inner sleeve. Thus, "when I write I float into an inside thrive/raise my praise to a mind of wise/I give off positive sparks to the plus" is a fairly typical expression of the rampantly good vibrations which it is plainly his philosophy to encourage.

Despite one or two bursts of industrial strength, post-Public Enemy verse, it is a far cry indeed from the one-track, chest-beating rants which initially gave hip hop a bad name. Styler's black pride tracts are thoughtful and reflective, his music generally shot through with an intelligent, though mysterious whimsy. One



Divine Styler: a conjurer intelligently realigning colourful scarves

of the first signings to West Coast rapper Ice T's Rhyme Syndicate label, Styler has produced a sparky, enquiring debut eminently fit to meet the Daisy Age challenge.

**Miró: Angel M1** (Secret Heart SH 2008) Does anyone remember the so-called "new acoustic" movement,

a loose aggregation of grass-roots performers which threatened to break out of its headquarters in the Troubadour coffee house-cum-cellar bar in Old Brompton Road about a year ago? I thought not.

Miró, the six-piece new wave folk group, has long been the darlings of the scene, and *Angel M1* does reasonable justice to its unusual use of acoustic in-

struments including cello, violin, clarinet and guitar, notably on the up-tempo "Black Sky", a progressive raver which twists and turns like a snake gripped hard behind the head.

The undercurrents of hippy recidivism, never far from the surface, become a bit too strong for comfort when it trundles out the droning sitars and clunking tablas on "Back To The Start". It is all a bit twee and bucolic for my liking, but it has the mark of a genuine article for all that.

**Mathilde Santing: Breast and Brow** (Megadisc MDC 7890)

Mathilde Santing may be something of an acquired taste, but the Dutch chanteuse knocks all those over-stylized Carmel and Julia Fordham types into a cocked hat with this splendidly poised if occasionally rather cool collection of arrangements for piano and voice.

Recorded live at London's Shaw Theatre in July 1988, her material is culled from a wide variety of sources including John Cale ("Close Watch"), Tod Rundgren ("Torch Song") and Roddy Frame ("We Could Send Letters"). But her skill is always to strip the songs of any protective coating and expose their core elements to the stark emotionalism of her clear, pure voice.

Michael Nyman: *The Nyman/Greenaway Soundtracks* (Venture VEBN 55)

This boxed set gathers together the soundtracks which Michael Nyman has composed and conducted for four of Peter Greenaway's films between 1982 and 1989, namely *The Draughtsman's Contract*, *The Cook, the Thief, his Wife and her Lover*, *A Zed & Two Noughts* and *Drowning by Numbers*. Its release coincides with two concerts at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (see *Weekend Gigs*).

Nyman's approach to writing music is rigidly and obviously mathematical. The basic blocks from which he builds his pieces often seem absurdly simple and comprise sequences, either original or derived from the work of Purcell or Mozart, propelled by strangely childlike, inflexible chopstick rhythms. From these he constructs larger sections which lock together to form bold, overarching symmetries that loom across their allotted time-spans like suspension bridges slung across placid bays of water.

The overpowering sense of music as a blatant artifice is well-suited to the mood of Greenaway's films, especially *The Draughtsman's Contract*, where "reality" repeatedly turns out to be a skilfully created illusion. But tasted as a separate entity, Nyman's pieces have an astringent flavour that can be as harsh on the palate as surgical alcohol.

**Olympic Games.** Novelty value aside, this year's champion is a virtual certainty for next year's pop charts. Tickets £8.50 or £15 if booked for both concerts together.

**SARAH JANE MORRIS:** Arty rad-fem chanteuse best known for lending her weight to the Communards' disco-clump version of "Don't Leave Me This Way". Jazz Café, 56 Newington Green, London N16 (01-358 4936). Tuesday, 8.30pm, £3.

**DMC DJ MIXING CHAMPIONSHIPS** (preliminary heats): The athletic aspect of DJ mixing has grown to such an extent over the past four years that it would come as no surprise to see it replacing boxing in the next

for the Royal Exchange Theatre Company

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To find out more, write with SAE 22cm x 11cm to Mobil Playwriting Competition, Royal Exchange Theatre Company, St Ann's Square, Manchester M2 2DH. Closing date: 3 August 1990

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### WEEKEND GIGS

Compiled by David Toop and David Sinclair

**S.E. ROGIE:** Palm wine is the name given to a mellow, conversational style of West African music. Its folksy wit and wisdom was originally lubricated by a liquor extracted from palm trees; now it is disseminated in soothing measures by the avuncular Rogie from Sierra Leone. Willesden Green Public Library Centre, High Rd, Willesden Green, London NW10 (01-451 0294). Tonight, 8pm, £5.

**ANC FOUNDATION DAY:** This celebration for the ANC features percussionist Julian Bahuda, one of

the most prominent black South African musicians on the British scene. Camden Centre, Bidborough St, London NW1 (01-278 4444). Monday, 7pm.

**MICHAEL NYMAN PLAYS GREENAWAY SOUNDTRACKS:** Nyman is the implacable pianist and master of the dark art of composing "systems" music, a form generally distinguishable by the outrageously repetitive use of simple motifs. Here he brings to the concert stage the soundtracks which he has supplied for four of Peter Greenaway's films. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800). Tonight, 7.45pm. *The Draughtsman's Contract* and the world concert premiere of *The*



## WEEKEND INFORMATION SERVICE

## The seeds of success



There has been no sudden burst of glory, no sensationalism, indeed little excitement of any kind attached to the rise of Tears For Fears from Most Promising New Act of 1982 in the *Sunday Times* magazine poll to their status as international manufacturers of international adult-pop blockbusters like the current album *The Seeds of Love*. Indeed, their approach has been so low key that during the four years of grief and grind which it took them to produce *The Seeds of Love*, their fan club was closed down, while record company executives despaired of ever recouping the vast (and escalating) sums of money advanced to facilitate the making of the album. Presumably all concerned took comfort from the knowledge that 1985's *Songs From The Big Chair* with its huge trans-Atlantic hits "Shout" and "Everybody Wants to Rule the World" ultimately sold in excess of nine million copies. Although such obsessive attention to detail has (eventually) brought results in the recording studio, it is fair to ask after their last UK outing in 1985, whether the duo's live shows might benefit from a slight loosening of the perfectionist straitjacket. However, given chief songwriter Roland Orzabal's unforgivingly earnest demeanour — the duo named itself after a phrase in a tract by psychologist Arthur Janov on *Primal Therapy* — it seems unlikely that they are going to start playing it for laughs now. Tomorrow, East Link Bridge, Dublin (001 363633) 7.30pm, 21.50; January 8, Kings Hall, Belfast (0232 665225); January 10 & 11, Apollo, Manchester (061 273 3775); January 13 & 14, Sheffield City Hall (0742 735295); March 2 & 3, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133); March 5, 6 & 7, Wembley Arena, Middlesex (01-902 1234). *David Sinclair*

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

## THEATRE LONDON

BOOKING KEY  
★ Seats available  
★ Returns only  
(\*) Access for disabled

## AMERICAN EAGLE

Amazingly funny one-act comedy with the one-time troublemaker American Eagle seriously looking at the modern world. Theatres: Theatres, King St, W6 (01-741 2211). Tue: Hammer Smith, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4.30pm, 22.

## THE BAKER'S WIFE

Alan Armstrong, Sharon Hill in the funny, touching, well made affair that changes a French village's bread supply. Enns Sat. Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-430 2254). Tue: Tottenham Court Rd, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4.30pm, 22.50-22.50 (7).

## BARNABY AND THE OLD BOYS

Jim Gascone, Keith Baxter, Jennifer Hill in a farcical comedy about the lives of a family in a small town. Theatres: Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-430 2254). Tue: Tottenham Court Rd, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4.30pm, 22.50-22.50 (7).

## BOOTS FOR THE FOOTLESS

See picture below. Theatres: Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-430 2254). Tue: Tottenham Court Rd, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4.30pm, 22.50-22.50 (7).

## A LIFE IN THE THEATRE

Danholm Elliott and Samuel West in a study of an old actor and his ambitious young son. Theatres: Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-430 2254). Tue: Tottenham Court Rd, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4.30pm, 22.50-22.50 (7).

## SCENES FROM AN EXECUTION

Glenda Jackson's return to the stage as the Renaissance painter pursuing his campaign for truth in the world. Theatres: Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-430 2254). Tue: Tottenham Court Rd, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4.30pm, 22.50-22.50 (7).

## THE DELINQUENTS

A routine story of defiant teenagers in the Fifties with Kylie Minogue. Theatres: Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-430 2254). Tue: Tottenham Court Rd, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4.30pm, 22.50-22.50 (7).

## THE DREAM TEAM

Madcap adventures of four mental hospital patients let loose on Manhattan (113 min). Theatres: Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-430 2254). Tue: Tottenham Court Rd, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4.30pm, 22.50-22.50 (7).

## FIELD OF DREAMS

Kevin Costner as a farmer encouraged by a celestial voice to use his cornfield for a baseball pitch (108 min). Theatres: Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-430 2254). Tue: Tottenham Court Rd, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4.30pm, 22.50-22.50 (7).

## GHOSTBUSTERS II

In which the team return to Manhattan of a devilish scheme (108 min). Theatres: Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-430 2254). Tue: Tottenham Court Rd, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4.30pm, 22.50-22.50 (7).

## OLIVER AND COMPANY

Animated Disney feature, inspired by Dickens's *Oliver Twist* (74 min). Theatres: Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-430 2254). Tue: Tottenham Court Rd, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4.30pm, 22.50-22.50 (7).

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## OUT OF TOWN

BRIGHTON: ★ *Diversion and Delights*: Donald Sinden as Oscar Wilde in a one-man show, set around an imaginary lecture in Paris. Theatres: Brighton (0273 26488), 7.40pm, 24-212.

## FILMS

## Also on national release

## ★ Advance booking possible

## ★ BACK TO THE FUTURE II (PG)

Over-ingenious sequel to the 1985 hit, with Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd (108 min). Cannon Baker Street (01-935 9772), Progs 2.10, 5.25, 8.10, Late Fri, Sat 11.00, (Closed Sun).

## ★ THE BAKER'S WIFE

Alan Armstrong, Sharon Hill in the funny, touching, well made affair that changes a French village's bread supply. Enns Sat. Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-430 2254). Tue: Tottenham Court Rd, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4.30pm, 22.50-22.50 (7).

## ★ BARNABY AND THE OLD BOYS

Jim Gascone, Keith Baxter, Jennifer Hill in a farcical comedy about the lives of a family in a small town. Theatres: Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-430 2254). Tue: Tottenham Court Rd, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4.30pm, 22.50-22.50 (7).

## ★ BOOTS FOR THE FOOTLESS

See picture below. Theatres: Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-430 2254). Tue: Tottenham Court Rd, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4.30pm, 22.50-22.50 (7).

## ★ A LIFE IN THE THEATRE

Danholm Elliott and Samuel West in a study of an old actor and his ambitious young son. Theatres: Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-430 2254). Tue: Tottenham Court Rd, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4.30pm, 22.50-22.50 (7).

## ★ SCENES FROM AN EXECUTION

Glenda Jackson's return to the stage as the Renaissance painter pursuing his campaign for truth in the world. Theatres: Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-430 2254). Tue: Tottenham Court Rd, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4.30pm, 22.50-22.50 (7).

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## CONCENTS

## ★ KOZUMI VALENTINE (15)

Pauline Collins makes her role as the Liverpool housewife valentine romance (108 min). Empire (01-200 0200). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30 (not Sun). Late Fri, Sat 11.15. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.10, 5.10, 8.10, 9.05. (Closed Sun).

## ★ WHEN HARRY MET SALLY (15)

Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan as professional Manhattanites who gradually fall for each other (95 min). Odeon Haymarket (01-839 1527). Progs 1.10, 3.35, 6.00, 8.30. (Closed Sun).

## ★ SHIRLEY VALENTINE

Pauline Collins makes her role as the Liverpool housewife valentine romance (108 min). Empire (01-200 0200). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30 (not Sun). Late Fri, Sat 11.15. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.10, 5.10, 8.10, 9.05. (Closed Sun).

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TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dearn and Gillian Maxey

Marriage on the rocks

Peter Waymark

Deborah Moggach's six-part drama, *Stolen* (ITV, 9.00pm) was inspired by the real case of a woman whose children were abducted by her Algerian husband and have still not been returned. In *Stolen*, Marianne (Cheryl Prime) is an Englishwoman married to a Pakistani (Art Malik) and living in Kent. Though they have a pleasant home and two attractive children, the relationship is under strain. When the marriage breaks down he steals the children from school and flies with them to Karachi, setting off a bitter parental battle for their custody. The potential pitfalls of this type of story, first, to make the husband the villain and secondly to make him a racial villain. Moggach has leaned over backwards to avoid both.



Custody: Art Malik and Cheryl Prime battle over their children (ITV, 9.00pm)

She even plays down the difficulties of the mixed marriage, laying the emphasis more on a basic incompatibility which has little to do with race. The husband is well-educated and serious-minded and thinks that a woman's place is with her children. She is empty-headed, bored with the house and kids and on the lookout for fun, which she finds in the company (and subsequently bed) of a rough-hewn local cabbie. If the worst you can say about the husband is that he is too self-absorbed and lacks a sense of humour, this hardly seems to justify her adulterous fling. In fact, she is presented with so little sympathy that you almost feel she gets what she deserves. If *Stolen* is to continue to hold the attention, later episodes must tilt the balance back so that the audience can start to see, if not necessarily take, the woman's side. Glasgow in its time has inspired a heap of jokes and not so long ago European City of Culture would have been one of them. But it is a laughing matter no longer and to celebrate the city's new found eminence an impressive list of Glaswegian talent has been assembled for a 90-minute documentary *This Is Me Since Yesterday* (BBC2, 9.00pm). Among those offering their impressions of Glasgow are the rock bands Hue and Cry, Texas and Wet Wet Wet; the writers John Byrne, Liz Lochhead and William McEwan; the Rangers football manager Graeme Souness and the boxer Jim Watt; the film director Bill Forsyth; actors Bill Paterson and David Hayman; and the no-alcohol lager salesman Billy Connolly. Plus the inevitable, unclassifiable Muriel Gray.

BBC 1

- 8.00 *Crest*
- 8.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer. Includes regular news headlines, business and financial reports, sports results, regional news, weather and travel bulletins and a look at the morning newspapers with Paul Cullen (8.55 Regional News and Weather)
- 9.00 News and weather followed by *Children's BBC*, presented by Simon Pegg, beginning with *Flare: The Boy Who Never Was* (1979) starring Gordon Hagan, Paul Alant and Christian Bullock. Drama about two young men looking for a kidnapped ambassador's son. Directed by Frank Godwin. (Coast)
- 10.00 News and weather followed by *Smoggy's 10.30 Playdays* 10.55 Five to Eleven. Ian Cuthbertson with a reading
- 11.00 News and weather followed by *Head of the Class*, American comedy series starring Howard Hesseman as the teacher of a class of precocious teenagers
- 11.30 *Passions* Up. The grand finale of the Norwich Union Trophy from Llangollen, north Wales
- 12.00 News and weather followed by *The High Chaparral*, Western adventure series starring Liff Erickson and Cameron Mitchell 12.55 Regional news and weather
- 1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. Weather
- 1.30 *Neighbours*, Jim is thrown into despair when Beverly goes missing and her car is found abandoned on a remote cliff top. (Coast)
- 1.50 *Curry on Ice*, in the last in the series, John Curry teaches his young pupils how to do split and stag jumps
- 2.15 *Peter the Great*, in this last part of the story about the Russian Tsar, Peter marries Catherine, but the price of war in Europe means his dynasty must pay a tragic toll. (Coast)
- 3.50 *Is That a Fact?* The first of a new series examining the truth behind legends 4.55 *Gameplan* 6.15 *Jeopardy*, Victoria Wood and Rossling Ayres with part four of Allan Ahlberg's *Ten in a Bed* 4.30 *Yogi Berra* 4.35 *Coppers* and *Co* starring David Copperfield (r)
- 4.55 *Newsnight*, Euro. In the first of a new series Terry Baddoo reports on British adventurer Robin Knox-Johnston's attempt to repeat Christopher Columbus's voyage to America 500 years ago using primitive navigating equipment similar to that employed by Columbus
- 5.00 *Grange Hill*, Episode two and Hankin is surprised by Teg's obedience. (Coast)
- 5.25 *Midday News* (r). (Coast)
- 6.00 *Star O'Clock* with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather
- 6.30 *Newsround* South East
- 7.00 *Wogan*, With Martin Shaw, Mark McManus, Pam Hogg and George Marshall. Sing a song from *Del Amici*
- 7.45 *Allo! Allo!* Helga and Von Smallhausen make two attempts to rescue Herr Flick from prison and need to call upon the assistance of Hansi (r). (Coast)
- 8.10 *Dallas*, Joe and Bobby's ideas on the future of *Ewing Oil* are very different and Clayton agrees to go to New England with Miss Effe to find out more about Jack's secret. (Coast)
- 9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Martin Lewis. Regional news and weather
- 9.30 *Film: Falling in Love* (1984) starring Meryl Streep and Robert De Niro. It's Christmas Eve in New York, and two every-day commuters, both happy in their respective marriages, are brought together by a chance encounter on the subway, and find themselves falling in love with each other. Directed by Ulu Grosbard. (Coast)
- 11.15 *Bette Midler's Mondo Beyond* Show. Bette Midler presents her own version of cable television, with comedy, drama and music from the *Yes/No* People
- 12.15 *Film: Deliverance* (1972) starring Burt Reynolds, Ned Beatty, Jon Voight and Ronny Cox. When four city men learn that a dam project threatens an unspoiled valley, they decide to go for a weekend canoeing trip along the Georgia river, but their holiday turns into a nightmare when they meet a pair of sadistic mountain men. Directed by John Boorman. (Coast)
- 2.00 *Weather*

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am begins with News and Good Morning Britain presented by Richard Keys and from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Linda Mitchell. Includes advice on holidaying in Turkey; 8.50 *Weekend* with Timmy Maltree
- 9.25 *The Adventures of Teddy Ruggles* (r) 9.50 *Thames News* and weather
- 10.00 *He Men and the Masters of the Universe*. Animated science fiction adventure (r) 10.25 *Speedy Gonzales* (r) 10.40 *News* headlines
- 10.45 *Film: The Horse With a Head* (1963) starring Herbert Lom, Leo McKern and Pamela Franklin. A Deney thriller about a gang of criminals who rob a train travelling through France but are forced to hide the cash in a toy horse when a group of children arrives on the scene. Directed by Don Chaffey
- 12.30 *Home and Away*. Barbara sees no reason why she should be a baby's father's lover when Poppy sets off to visit Carly in the city
- 1.00 *News at One* with John Suchet. Weather 1.20 *Thames News*
- 1.30 *Chain Letters*. Alan Stewart hosts another edition of the world's longest letter chain
- 3.00 *Welcome to Miami*, Cuba. Mike is embarrassed about his Cuban heritage. The arrival of his cousin makes things worse (r)
- 3.25 *Thames News* and weather 3.50 *Sons and Daughters*. Australian drama following the lives and loves of the Hamilton and the Palmer families
- 4.00 *Utterly Brilliant*. Timmy Maltree is the host of this new series designed to illustrate how to be "utterly brilliant" at almost everything, from juggling to drawing cartoons. Timmy starts off by learning how to juggle, with a hint from the jiving Lindy Hoppers
- 4.30 *Star O'Clock* with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather
- 4.45 *Palace Hill*. Episode one of a new comedy-drama series. It's the start of a new term at Palace Hill Comprehensive and joining Maggie Thatcher in the classroom is new pupil Princess Beatrice, complete with a maid to attend to all her royal needs. Starring Oliver Hawker, Tessa Harrison and Phoebe Wood
- 5.10 *Home and Away* (r)
- 5.40 *News at Five* with Timmy Maltree. Weather 5.55 *Police 5 Plus* with Shaw Taylor
- 6.00 *Star O'Clock* Live presented by Frank Bough
- 7.00 *Concorde*. Game show hosted by Bob Carlisle
- 7.30 *Coronation Street*. Sandra Arden is about to receive a visit from her father - for the first time in 20 years. (Coast)
- 8.00 *Wogan*. Comedy love story starring Paul Brown and Emma Wray. (Coast)
- 8.30 *Home to Roost*. Matthew is bitterly disappointed when his father books their holiday, rejecting a trip to sunny Jersey for a return to good old Glastonbury, once the family's favourite resort. Starring John Thaw and Reece Dinsdale. (Coast)
- 9.00 *Shaken (see Choice)*
- 10.00 *News at Ten* with Sandy Gall and Trevor McDonald. Weather 10.35 *LWT News* and weather
- 10.40 *Film: The Sign of Four* (1983) starring Ian Richardson, Charles Lunt and David Hower. Sherlock Holmes is asked to solve an intriguing case of murder and revenge, which involves priceless treasure, a beautiful young woman and a fearsome pygmy. With Thelma Houston. Directed by Desmond Davis
- 12.30 *Film: The Making of Yellowhead*. A preview of the new 13-part drama serial
- 1.00 *The Jesse White Radio Show*. The acoustic chat show host broadcasts another collection of interplay phone-ins. Followed by *News* headlines
- 2.00 *Chances*. Steve March introduces clips from the 10 most successful films in the US in 1989
- 2.30 *The Fall Guy*. The Bigger They Are. Col helps a young delinquent as well as bringing a degree dealer to book. Starring Les Mayes
- 3.30 *US Baseball*. *Golden State* play the *San Francisco Giants*
- 4.30 *Star World*. Fashion and sport reports
- 5.00 *ITN Evening News* with Richard Brehn. Ends at 6.00

BBC 2

- 6.25 *The Third Man* (b/w) 6.50 *Buck Rogers* (b/w) 9.10 *Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe* (b/w)
- 9.30 *Film: The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle* (1939, b/w). Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers star as the husband-and-wife dance team who became international celebrities. But then tragedy struck. Directed by M. C. Potter. (Coast)
- 11.00 *Animation* Now 11.10 *Torin, the Dreamer* Popy. The story of a pony growing up in the wild (r) 12.10 *Sporting Years: 1988*
- 1.00 *King Rollo* (r) 1.05 *Chris and Crumble* (r) 1.15 *The Historyman* visits the ruins of a Cumanic priory (r) 1.30 *Chaffee*. A typical day in Scotland's biggest secondary school
- 2.00 *News* and weather followed by *Sport on Friday*. The Bushmills Whiskey Irish Masters Indoor Bowls final from Ballymoney and sid jumping from Inishbrook. Includes *News* and weather at 3.00 and 3.30
- 4.00 *Cartoon* with Paul Cullen
- 4.30 *Everly* Glennie in Concert. The young virtuoso percussionist in an Orchestral concert, conducted by John Lubbock (r)
- 5.30 *Food and Drink* (r)
- 5.50 *Blue Fin* (1978) starring Hardy Kruger and Greg Rouse. A boy gets a chance to prove himself to his father when his fishing boat is wrecked in a tropical storm. Directed by Carl Schultz
- 7.30 *Friday Report*. *Free Press*. A report from the Maudsley hospital on its pioneering research in drug addiction treatment (Wales and London only)
- 8.00 *Back and Beyond*. The second of two programmes tracing a year in the life of the Cambridge Footlights (r)
- 8.30 *First Time Painting*. The first of a new painting series. (Coast)
- 9.00 *This is the Life Since Yesterday* (see Choice)
- 10.30 *Newsnight*
- 11.15 *World Darts*. First round action in the *World Professional Championship* 12.15 *News*
- 12.30 *Film: Nothing Sacred* (1937) starring Fredric March and Carole Lombard. Sarsfield comedy about a journalist who risks a human interest story to limit a scandal. Directed by William Wellman. Ends at 1.35

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 *The Channel Four Daily*
- 9.25 *Sesame Street* 10.25 *Hello, Animation* 10.35 *The Batman* (b/w)
- 10.55 *Faerie Tale Theatre: The Little Mermaid* starring Pam Dawber, Helen Marlowe, Karen Black and Trust Williams 11.55 *Saturday: Father Dear Father*. Cartoon
- 12.00 *Crown and Shemrock*. Last in the series about the Anglo-Irish (r)
- 12.30 *Business Daily*
- 1.00 *Rowing*. The Layland DAF Power Spring Championships 1989 (r)
- 2.00 *Film: The Clouds Roll By* (1946) starring Robert Walker and Judy Garland. A biopic of the composer Jerome Kern. Directed by Richard Whorf.
- 4.30 *Countdown*
- 5.00 *I Love Lucy* (b/w)
- 5.30 *Imagined Technology*. Part one - how the microchip processes information (r)
- 6.00 *Scott*. Food series presented by Dawn French (r)
- 6.30 *Monty and Mandy* starring Robin Williams and Pam Dawber
- 7.00 *Channel Four News* with John Snow and Sonia Russell. Weather
- 7.55 *Book Choice*. Fritz Speigl reviews *State of the Language*, edited by Christopher Ricks and Leonard Michaels (see Choice)
- 8.00 *No One Likes Us - We Don't Care*. A documentary about Millwall Football Club and its fans
- 8.00 *Empty Nest*. Comedy series
- 8.30 *Assassination*. *Bestial Gardens*. The Kuvings and Wildflower gardens in St Ives, New South Wales. (Oracle)
- 10.00 *The Golden Girls*. (Oracle)
- 10.30 *Short and Curious: Arcadia*. Starring Pat Heywood and Nick Raggott
- 11.15 *Film: Out* (1982) starring Peter Coyote as Rex, an urban guerrilla in Greenwich Village who goes on a journey of self discovery across the United States, encountering radical conspiracies, political paranoia, sex and drugs. Directed by Eli Holander
- 12.45 *Film: Poet in the Rain*. The story of Pakistan's people through the poetry of Faiz Ahmed (r)
- 1.45 *Habit Jellie: Poetry of Defiance*. A recital by 'poet of the people' Habit Jellie (r). Ends at 2.10

SATELLITE

- SKY ONE
- 5.00am *Sky News* 5.30 *European Business Channel* 6.00 *The DJ Kat Show* 6.30 *Panel Pot* 6.40 *The DJ Kat Show* 6.50 *Sky by Day* 11.30 *A Problem Shared* 12.00 *Another World* 12.55 *General Hospital* 1.50 *As the World Turns* 2.45 *Loving* 3.15 *The Young Doctors* 3.45 *Captain Caveman* 4.00 *The Adams Family* 4.30 *The New Leave It To Beaver Show* 5.00 *Sky Star Search* 6.00 *The New Price is Right* 6.30 *Sale of the Century* 7.00 *Black Sheep Squadron* 8.00 *Ripcord* 9.00 *Hunter* 10.00 *All-American Wrestling* 11.00 *News* 11.30 *The Deadly Embers Pictures Show*
- SKY NEWS
- News on the hour
- 5.00am *Sky News* 5.30 *European Business Channel* 6.00 *World Business Report* 10.30 *BMV Good Health* 11.30 *Our World* 12.30pm *NBC Today* 1.30 *NBC Today* 2.30 *News* 3.30 *BMV Good Health* 4.30 *Our World* 5.00 *Live at Five* 6.30 *Beyond 2000* 7.30 *The Reporters* 8.30 *Frank Bough* 9.30 *Newsline* 10.30 *The Reporters* 11.30 *NBC Nightly News* 12.30am *Frank Bough* 1.30 *Newsline* 2.30 *The Reporters* 3.30 *Frank Bough* 4.30 *Newsline*
- SKY MOVIES
- From 8.00am *The Satellite Shop*
- 2.00pm *Gambler*. High school character gets heavily involved in gambling
- 3.00 *Dusty - Episode 4*. The tales of a young dingo pup continue
- 4.00 *The Mystery of the Million Dollar*
- 5.00 *Adventure in Babysitting* (1987): Comedy from *Gremlins* director
- 6.00 *Last Plane Out* (1983): Political turmoil in Nicaragua
- 7.40 *Entertainment Tonight*
- 8.00 *Adventure in Babysitting* (1987): Comedy from *Gremlins* director
- 10.00 *Heat* (1987): Burt Reynolds as a compulsive Las Vegas gambler
- 11.45 *Flesh and Blood* (1985): Barbaric 16th century adventure
- 2.00pm *The Holcroft Covenant* (1985): Michael Caine on a life-or-death mission
- 4.00 *Tudorface* (1987): Drama based on the life of Robert Tudor, the first Aboriginal film star. Ends 5.30am
- EUROSPORT
- 5.00am *World Business Report* 5.30 *European Business Channel* 6.00 *DJ Kat Show* 6.30 *Menu* 6.00 *Volleyball*: Men's World Cup 10.00 *Havoc* 8 11.00 *Indoor Handball* Super Cup 12.00 *Snooker*: The Hong Kong Gold Cup: Higgins v Davis 2.00pm *Best of the Year*: Volleyball 3.00 *Hopman Cup* Tennis 5.00 *Table Tennis*: Grand Prix Finals 6.00 *Snooker*: The Hong Kong Gold Cup: Higgins v Davis 8.00 *The Year That Was*: Prototype Sports Cars 9.00 *Best of the Year* 1988: Tennis 10.00 *Stars-Dakar* Rally 10.15 *Havoc* 11.15 *Ringside* - Superbouts: Leonard v Hagler 12.15am *Stars-Dakar Rally*
- MTV
- 5.30am *Club MTV* 6.00 *Kristiane Backer* 10.30 *MTV at the Movies* 11.00 *Remote Control* 11.30 *Kristiane Backer* 1.00pm *Marcel Vanthut* 4.00 *3 from 1* 4.15 *Marcel Vanthut* 5.00 *Remote Control* 5.30 *Club MTV* 6.00 *Ray Charles* 7.30 *Yol* 8.00 *MTV at the Movies* 8.30 *Kid Creole* 9.30 *Malcolm X* 11.00 *120 Minutes* 1.00am *Videos*
- SCREENSPORT
- 7.00am *US College Basketball* 8.30 *Ice Skating* 9.15 *Ice Skating* 10.00 *Spanish Soccer* 11.45 *US Professional Boxing* 1.15pm *Motor Sport* 2.00 *NFL American Football* 4.00 *85 Screensport Review of the Year* 5.00 *Powersports* 6.00 *American Basketball*: Update 7.30 *Ice Hockey* 8.30 *US College Football* 11.00 *Boxing*
- LIFESTYLE
- 10.00am *Joke's Fitness Minute* 10.01 *Search for Tomorrow* 10.25 *Fashion File* 10.25 *Wok with Yan* 11.10 *Edge of Night* 11.35 *The Great American Gameshow* 12.00pm *Star Time* 12.55 *Sally Jessy Raphael* 1.40 *Skyways* 2.40 *Search for Tomorrow* 3.15 *The Detectives* 4.40 *Jack Thompson Down Under* 4.55 *Lifestyle Plus* 4.45 *The Great American Gameshow*
- Full information on satellite TV programmes is available in the weekly magazine, TV Guide.

RADIO 1

- 5.00am *Radio 1 News* 5.30 *Radio 1 News* 6.00 *Radio 1 News* 6.30 *Radio 1 News* 7.00 *Radio 1 News* 7.30 *Radio 1 News* 8.00 *Radio 1 News* 8.30 *Radio 1 News* 9.00 *Radio 1 News* 9.30 *Radio 1 News* 10.00 *Radio 1 News* 10.30 *Radio 1 News* 11.00 *Radio 1 News* 11.30 *Radio 1 News* 12.00 *Radio 1 News* 12.30 *Radio 1 News* 1.00 *Radio 1 News* 1.30 *Radio 1 News* 2.00 *Radio 1 News* 2.30 *Radio 1 News* 3.00 *Radio 1 News* 3.30 *Radio 1 News* 4.00 *Radio 1 News* 4.30 *Radio 1 News* 5.00 *Radio 1 News* 5.30 *Radio 1 News* 6.00 *Radio 1 News* 6.30 *Radio 1 News* 7.00 *Radio 1 News* 7.30 *Radio 1 News* 8.00 *Radio 1 News* 8.30 *Radio 1 News* 9.00 *Radio 1 News* 9.30 *Radio 1 News* 10.00 *Radio 1 News* 10.30 *Radio 1 News* 11.00 *Radio 1 News* 11.30 *Radio 1 News* 12.00 *Radio 1 News* 12.30 *Radio 1 News* 1.00 *Radio 1 News* 1.30 *Radio 1 News* 2.00 *Radio 1 News* 2.30 *Radio 1 News* 3.00 *Radio 1 News* 3.30 *Radio 1 News* 4.00 *Radio 1 News* 4.30 *Radio 1 News* 5.00 *Radio 1 News* 5.30 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**From Ian Murray, Bonn**

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1039-1043.



Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.6275 (+0.0165)  
W German mark  
2.7456 (-0.0277)  
Exchange index  
86.7 (-0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1957.3 (-11.0)  
FT-SE 100  
2451.6 (-12.1)  
USM (Datastream)  
156.92 (+0.84)

Market report, page 26

Chancellor stresses policy

Mr John Major, Chancellor, last night said "We will keep interest rates high for as long as we need. We have a primary purpose to get inflation down - that means a firm monetary policy."

Speaking on Thames Television's City Programme he reported the commitment to become a full member of the European Monetary System, but stressed the opening of the single market and the opening of the Eastern European markets as the most significant in the next decade.

Baker falls

Pre-tax profits of Baker Harris Saunders for six months to October of £609,000 fell from £1.94 million on static turnover of £4 million. The interim is 2.25p against 3p.

STOCK MARKETS

New York:  
Dow Jones 2761.78 (-27.95)  
Tokyo  
Nikkei Average 38712.88 (-202.99)  
Hong Kong  
Hang Seng 2867.95 (+9.23)  
Amsterdam  
CBSE Tendency 118.8 (-0.7)  
Sydney AO 1708.8 (+20.80)  
Frankfurt DAX 1836.88 (-33.78)  
Brussels  
General 6596.35 (+36.29)  
Paris CAC 3574.16 (-1.3)  
Zurich S&K Gen 651.4 (-1.3)  
London:  
FT-A All-Share 1224.52 (-2.31)  
FT-100 1338.72 (-1.59)  
FT Gold Mines 238.7 (-0.2)  
FT Fixed Interest 92.59 (-0.25)  
FT Govt Secs 84.06 (-0.10)  
Recent Issues Page 28  
Closing prices Page 27

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISERS:  
Borland 692½p (+48p)  
Cable & Wireless 582½p (+13p)  
Eurotunnel Units 712½p (+43p)  
Typhook 455p (+50p)  
Henderson Admin 485p (+50p)  
MAM 675p (+25p)  
Gresham House 375p (+20p)  
Cater Allen 455p (+15p)  
United Discos 85p (+15p)  
SG Warburg 510½p (+16p)  
Glaxo 618p (+13p)  
Western Motors 612½p (+35p)  
BOS Group 385p (+13p)  
Cannon Street 181½p (+14p)  
Charter Cons 456½p (+16p)

FALLS:  
Barker Harris 90p (-25p)  
Guinness 658½p (-15p)  
BET 252p (-15p)  
Cookson 292p (-10p)  
Heal 320½p (-13p)  
Closing prices Page 28  
SEAG Volume 675.7m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 15%  
3-month interbank 15½-15¾%  
3-month eligible bills 14½-14¾%  
US Prime Rate 10½%  
Federal Funds 8¼%  
3-month Treasury Bills 7.59-7.59¾%  
30-year bonds 10½-10½¾%

CURRENCIES

London:  
£/\$ 1.6275  
£/DM 2.7456  
£/Sfr 2.5194  
£/FF 6.4065  
£/Yen 253.65  
£/Index 86.7  
ECU £0.73806 SDR £0.610793  
£/ECU 1.362758 £/SDR 1.233560

GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$394.95 pm \$396.50  
close \$395.50-396.00 (£243.00-243.50)  
New York  
Comex \$385.40-395.90

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb) £21.90 bbl (\$21.50)  
Dutchman latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.12	1.99
Canada \$	2.12	1.99
Denmark Kr	67.20	57.30
France F	1.965	1.855
Germany M	11.14	10.54
Italy Lira	366	358
Japan Yen	163.24	154.44
Netherlands Gld	2.37	2.29
Portugal Esc	204	194
Spain Ptas	165.50	173.50
Sweden Kr	10.34	9.54
Switzerland Fr	2.63	2.47
Turkey Lira	620	580
USA \$	1.705	1.595
Yugoslavia Dnr	200.00	200.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Prices Index 118.5 (November)

Bundesbank pushes dollar below G7 range

By Rodney Lord  
Economics Editor

The West German Bundesbank yesterday set itself at odds with the stable currency policies of the Group of Seven major industrial countries by pushing the dollar through the bottom of its presumed target range against the mark.

Foreign exchange markets took the hint and the recent revival in the dollar was abruptly reversed.

After starting the morning strongly supported by recent favourable indicators in the US economy the dollar fell sharply on the Bundesbank's move, and by the close of trading in London had fallen 2.75 pence against the mark.

compared with the previous close to DM1.6895.

It was the first time the Bundesbank has intervened in the markets - a policy which Herr Karl Otto Pöhl, the Bundesbank president, has publicly disavowed - since October.

Sterling also fell sharply against the mark, closing down 2.77 pence against DM2.7456, but it rose 1.65 cents against the dollar to \$1.6275. The effective rate index closed down 0.3 at 86.7.

Whatever the current status of the informal target ranges for the dollar which emerged in 1987 after the Louvre Accord, traders said the Bundesbank's action would be unwelcome to a number of other G7

members. The US Federal Reserve has been uncomfortable with the weakness of the dollar, which it sees as a threat to its counter-inflation policies. Member countries of the European Monetary System, particularly France and Italy, are also unhappy at the German move.

Comment.....25

which will intensify strains within the EMS.

Mr Geoffrey Dennis of James Capel said: "The Bundesbank has made it clear that it does not want to see a resurgence in the dollar."

"It is saying: 'We like a strong D-mark because it helps us with our

counter-inflation policy and with curbing the size of our current account surplus."

"But it is a rather divisive move in relation to G7 policy."

While the mark has been growing stronger over the past few weeks the yen has been weak in spite of intervention by the Bank of Japan and the rise in Japanese interest rates on Christmas Day.

Yesterday, for the second day, the Bank of England intervened on behalf of the Bank of Japan selling dollars for yen. The move was not co-ordinated with the Bundesbank and differed from the German action in being directed at making a weak currency stronger.

Despite heavy central bank sup-

port, the yen sank to its lowest level against the dollar since September, fuelling speculation that the Japanese authorities may have to raise interest rates for the second time in a fortnight to shore up the currency (Joe Joseph writes from Tokyo). The dollar climbed Y1.80 to Y145.20, its highest finish since September 22. The central bank boosted Japan's key discount rate by half a percentage point to 4.25 per cent on Christmas Day in a bid to dampen inflationary pressure. Since then the currency has fallen by Y3 against the dollar.

Heavy intervention by the Bank of Japan helped to bring the dollar off the boil after it hit a peak of Y145.72 yesterday morning.

Saudis launch hostile £151m Hartwell bid

By Martin Waller

A £151.3 million hostile bid for Hartwell, the Oxford-based motor fuel oil distributor, by the Saudi Arabian Jameel Group has raised vital questions over the future of the British car trade.

Contested bids for car dealers are almost unknown, not least because there is no automatic transference of the vital franchises to distribute different car-makers' products to the new owners.

Hostile bids from Saudi interests, likewise, are almost unheard of, but the Jameel Group, a private company which has roots in the kingdom's Toyota franchise, launched its offer after sitting on a hostile holding for more than two years and being denied a seat on the Hartwell board.

At the time of the 1987 crash, Jameel started to amass a stake in Hartwell, reaching 18 per cent by last April. Further buying in the market yesterday, as the Hartwell share price rose 23p to 143p, took its holding to 22 per cent.

The cash offer is pitched at 136p an ordinary share and 124.712p for each convertible preference, with a loan note alternative. It is funded out of Jameel's cash resources. A further complication is the 24.8 per cent Jameel holds in another motor dealer, Trimoco.

The bid was immediately

rejected as "unwelcome and wholly unacceptable" by Mr Peter Huggins, the chairman. "I've met them," he confirmed. "We didn't think they had anything to offer."

But Mr Rupert Carington, son of Lord Carrington and the chairman of Oakhill, the company through which the bid is being made, claimed Hartwell had underperformed the sector in earnings per share growth and dividends, and Jameel had, therefore, decided to safeguard its investment by making a bid.

He said he had "no particular reason" to fear the loss of franchises should the bid succeed. The company had discussed the matter with several manufacturers, with "few indications" of opposition.

But the response within the trade was different. A spokesman for Ford Motor Company said: "We've told them they must dispose of competitive dealerships in areas in which there is a conflict."

He indicated that the Trimoco holding, and the leverage it gives Jameel over that business, would be taken into account in deciding where such conflict lay. "We've told them that our franchise is non-transferable."

Hartwell and Trimoco have six substantial Ford dealerships apiece. Hartwell itself, for historical reasons, in its current form already breaches Ford's rules, and a transfer of

ownership would have to involve it parting with some franchises.

Ford could also insist all or part of Jameel's Trimoco stake be sold at a loss - its average purchase price is thought to be about twice Trimoco's current share price.

Trimoco takes about 2.4 per cent of Ford's output in this country. Hartwell's share is slightly less.

Of the other suppliers, Vauxhall said there was no reason why Jameel should not be approved as a dealer. But Jaguar gave warning there was no guarantee the franchise would stay with Hartwell if the company changed hands.

An option for Jameel, if the bid succeeds, might be to go it alone without the blessing of the big car-makers. Given its close links with Toyota, it would be acquiring a ready-made network through which the Japanese company's products could be shipped.

The British-based companies would have to decide if they were prepared to hold fast and surrender market share to the Japanese at a time when the going was becoming increasingly tough for the industry as a whole. Mr Rob



Serious approach: Fairline chairman Sam Newington at the helm yesterday

Approach lifts Fairline

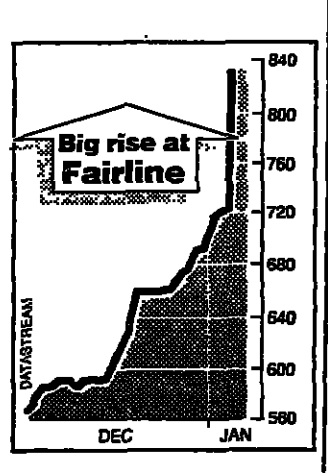
Fairline Boats, the luxury boat builder, has received what it calls a "serious approach" which may lead to a takeover bid. The shares yesterday sailed ahead from 723p to touch 840p before easing back to 835p, (writes Colin Campbell).

However, Fairline shares had earlier risen from about 550p in December to 723p before yesterday's formal announcement in an advance which is now likely to attract the attention of Stock Exchange officials.

The company, whose preliminary results for the year to

the end of September showing pre-tax profits of £4.14 million (£3.63 million) on a turnover of £30.5 million (£25.4 million) were announced in November, says it had no reason to suppose that suggestions of bid talks had leaked.

Mr Sam Newington, the chairman, whose family controls 61 per cent of Fairline, said from Earls Court yesterday at the first day of the annual Boat Show, that the company's shares had traditionally risen ahead of the Boat Show, and that the recent rise appeared to be no exception.



One man created firm

The Jameel Group is largely the creation of one man, Mr Abdul Latif Jameel, one of the richest men in Saudi Arabia outside the royal family. His company was founded in 1955 when it was granted distribution rights to Toyota vehicles in the kingdom.

In a recent newspaper sur-

vey, Jameel ranked as the fifth largest group in Saudi Arabia by turnover, and the biggest which is in the hands of a private individual - the top four are at least partly government-owned, while Mr Jameel remains the sole beneficiary of the share capital.

In 1976, the group began to

diversify overseas. It still relies heavily on the Toyota franchise within Saudi, the seventh largest market in the world for the Japanese company's vehicles, and is the second largest purchaser of spare parts from Toyota.

But the diversification was well-timed and is likely to have provided the bulk of its profits since the bottom fell out of the Saudi market with the 1982 oil price shock. Distribution of Toyotas in Saudi peaked at 152,000 during that year; by 1988 it had dropped to 62,000.

Overseas, Jameel is involved in property and shipping and has a small photographic business in France. It owns almost 5 million sq ft of commercial property in the US.

In this country, its only disclosed stake is the Trimoco holding. "They have a reputation for being very professional," said one British motor industry insider.



Bid-makers: Rupert Carington, chairman of Oakhill, through which the offer was launched, and John Wei, chief executive

Receiver at supplier to Lowndes

By Gillian Bowditch

Lowndes Queensway, Mr James Gulliver's troubled furniture group, is in danger of losing its third supplier in three months.

Kwiklok, formerly a Noble & Lund company and the subject of a management buyout, has gone into receivership. Lowndes is believed to have been one of Kwiklok's biggest customers.

Last night, Price Waterhouse, the receiver to Kwiklok, confirmed that Lowndes owed Kwiklok money, but could not say how much.

Kwiklok, which made a £3 million loss in 1988, makes flat pack furniture and pine furniture. It has a turnover of about £15 million and 240 employees. Lowndes said it was not particularly concerned about the news.

Comment, page 25

Loan stock holders seek higher payout

Ghost of Grendon lingers on

By Neil Bennett

Skeletons have a habit of dancing out of cupboards when everyone has forgotten about them. Now Grendon Trust, one of the boniest skeletons of the seventies, has reappeared, as a dispute has flared between Charterhouse Bank and the holders of Grendon's defunct loan stock.

Grendon, one of the most spectacular property collapses of the mid-seventies and now a 100 per cent subsidiary of Charterhouse, is offering to redeem £1.38 million of 11 per cent loan stock at 18p in the pound. Otherwise it threatens to liquidate the company to try to pay bank debts of more than £10 million.

But the 300 stockholders are resisting the offer, believing the company's only asset, a derelict City building, is a potential goldmine. On the face of it, the offer looks generous. The loan stock was issued in 1976 as part of a package to

compensate former stockholders after the company's collapse. The company, which lost £1.83 million in the year to September, has teetered on the brink of liquidation ever since, so has never paid the interest on the stock, which now amounts to £3.66 million.

The stockholder revolt is being led by Mr Peter Wilkey, a former director of Warburg Securities. Last year he bought more than 25 per cent of the issue, at 20p in the pound, thinking it was undervalued. Now he feels he is being forced to take a loss on his investment. "The company is putting a gun to stockholders' heads," he said.

Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks, the surveyor, values the building near Liverpool Street Station at £7 million. Mr Wilkey believes it is worth considerably more. He is asking the company to give stockholders more time, so the building can be refurbished; and the lease

sold. This, plus victory in a £1.9 million battle with the Inland Revenue, could produce enough cash for a higher payout. Grendon says, even with this money, it would still have debts of £1.81 million. Stockholders will challenge Charterhouse at a meeting next Wednesday.

"From the company's point of view, this business is a thorn in our side," said Mr John Williamson, a Grendon director. "We have decided it is not worth hanging around any longer, and convinced Charterhouse to make this £250,000 payment. If stockholders refuse to take it, they're daft."

Grendon's original collapse left Keyser Ullmann, the secondary bank, with bad debts of £21 million while Mr Christopher Selmes, its asset-stripping chairman who died in 1988, went to New York leaving personal liabilities of more than £20 million, later repaid with a Henry Moore sculpture.

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## TEMPUS

## Singer target obscured by Gunn aim

Singer & Friedlander has always been on the fringe of the merchant banking world, with neither the weight nor the pedigree to compete with the likes of SG Warburg or Schroders. It has managed to prosper by choosing highly profitable niches, like Third World Debt trading.

While the overall business and profits look healthy however, there are some areas where Mr John Hodson, the newly-appointed chief executive could turn his attention. One potential project is a shake-up of the bank's corporate lending arm. Singer thinks of itself as an arch-conservative, and boasts its £350 million loan book has not suffered a bad debt in years. But growth has been sacrificed under this regime, and the group is beginning to look distinctly over-capitalized.

Another area he could question is the group's love affair with small computer companies. Singer now has a 16 per cent stake in Apricot, which it may want to increase to 20 per cent, and 35 per cent of Ferrari, together worth £12.3 million. Singer has made handsome profits on previous equity investments, like Takare and Alida, but many brokers question its present interest in such a volatile sector.

Otherwise, Singer has undoubted attractions, with a £900 million private client

portfolio, £70 million property, and estimated net cash of £40 million. Its shares however languish at 68p, British & Commonwealth's 10.5 per cent stake is overhanging the market, with dealers worried that Mr John Gunn, B&C's chairman, will sell below the current price as he did last month with Woodchester. Mr Gunn insists he is not a seller at these levels.

Singer's property, cash and investments are worth 60p a share, leaving the whole merchant banking business in for practically nothing. On the value Deutsche Bank put on Morgan Grenfell, the share price would be nearer 105p.

Once the ownership of B&C's stake is resolved, the market may revalue the company.

## Evode

Evode at last seems to be overcoming the damage done to its rating by the £89 million acquisition of the shoe component maker Chamberlain Phipps in the summer.

Since the New Year the shares have risen by almost a tenth. But at 141p, they are still down a third on their last peak 12 months ago and nearly 100p lower than their all-time high before the crash.

Part of the rationale for buying Chamberlain Phipps was to gain critical mass, for both commercial and finan-



Overcoming the damage: Andrew Simon, Evode chairman

cial reasons. Although Evode, led by Mr Andrew Simon, the chairman, had built up leading positions in the British market for its original businesses its competitors were nearly all very large international chemicals companies.

It is not exactly clear whether buying Chamberlain Phipps — at about 18 times historic earnings — has helped in this regard. Evode is bigger than it was in sales terms, though its downturning has meant there has not been a corresponding increase in its market capitalization.

When Evode publishes its results for the year to Septem-

ber later this month, it will be clear whether or not it has been able to make the £3 million annual savings at Chamberlain Phipps promised during the course of the bid.

With brokers expecting an outcome of £12 million and 13p of earnings, the prospective p/e ratio is back up to 11, though this would fall to about 9 if Evode were to make £20 million before tax and earnings of 15p in the current year.

This may not be terribly exciting in view of the trading outlook, but overseas chemicals majors have been paying over 20 times earnings for adhesives manufacturers, and both powder coatings and plastics are areas of potential interest to predators. The shares could be worth a punt.

## Baker Harris Saunders

The bubble appears to have burst for Baker Harris Saunders, the chartered surveyor which paved the way for a troop of property speculators when it came to the market in 1986.

The flurry of activity in the London commercial property market, which boomed with Big Bang, has slowed down in the wake of rising interest rates.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to October fell from £1.9 million to £609,000 on

static turnover of £4 million. Earnings per share fell 10.7p to 2.8p and the interim dividend is 2.25p, down from 3p. Had the group maintained the dividend, it would not have been able to cover it.

The company sees this as a temporary lull although it admits it is at the mercy of Britain's economy and the upturn is unlikely to come in this financial year.

Baker Harris argues that many of its problems stem from a change in the nature of its business over the last 18 months. More long-term contracts mean it does not receive payment until a development is complete, which can easily take five years or more. The group is expecting to take about £25 million in fee income over the next six years.

But part of Baker Harris's problems stem from over-expansion at exactly the wrong time. Costs have escalated from £2.6 million to £3.7 million and the number of employees has jumped from 63 to 90 over the last 12 months.

No one is expecting any miracles in the short term and the group is expected to make no more than £1.5 million for the year. It puts the shares, down 20p at 95p, 55p below their flotation price, and on a p/e ratio of around 14 — the rating on which they were floated. The shares are likely to remain weak.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Albert Fisher acquires Dutch firm for £13m

Albert Fisher, the food distribution group, is continuing its acquisition strategy in Europe with the purchase of JJM Theeuwse Beheer, the Dutch mushroom processor and distribution company, for £13 million. Holco, which sells mushrooms and asparagus in time and jars, has a network throughout Europe and a joint company in Poland where it obtains some of its supplies. Mr Joep Theeuwse, the group's owner, has entered a four-year service agreement with Fisher.

The deal is being financed by existing borrowings and a vendor placing of 2.2 million shares. Albert Fisher recently raised £180 million through a rights issue at 110p, which gave it a new US equity partner. At the time, Mr Tony Miller, Fisher's chairman, said he had four acquisitions worth £40 million in the pipeline. Fisher shares rose 4p to 127p.

## Harding to sell subsidiary

Harding Group, the USM-quoted distributor of electrical and engineering supplies from Stoke-on-Trent, is selling Earthspan, its building supplies subsidiary which made pre-tax profits of £758,000 in the year to end-December, to Kingsway Group for a maximum of £4.72 million. The proceeds will eliminate borrowings and allow management to focus on Harding's core electrical business. The shares climbed by 5p to 43p.

## Poddington in the red

Poddington, the Third Market creator of a family of cartoon characters, showed a loss of £69,900, or 0.4p per share, in the period from January 20, 1989 to end-July 1989. This reflects the period when the company was producing its first 13 animated cartoons and had no turnover or income. Since July the company has signed a seven-year agreement with BBC TV, and BBC 1 is screening Poddington's animated cartoons.

## Rentokil in £2.5m buy

Rentokil Group, the environmental and property care company, has bought Style Business Technology, the fourth office machinery maintenance business it has acquired within 18 months, for £2.5 million.

Style, which operates in London and the Home Counties and has more than 2,000 customers, made a trading profit of £367,000 in the year to end-March 1989, on turnover of £6.6 per cent at £3.77 million. Mr Clive Thompson, Rentokil's group chief executive, said the acquisition would remain a "stand alone" business within the office machinery maintenance division and would benefit from the group's management information and budgetary control systems as well as having access to a much larger customer base. Rentokil shares firmed by 5p to 389p.

## Kunick buys care complex

Goldborough, a care services subsidiary of Kunick, the health care and leisure group, has bought the Northgate House care complex in Highgate, north London, for £4.7 million. It consists of a 60-bed nursing home and 16 close care apartments available for sale or rent. The purchase represents a further step towards Kunick's plan to re-balance the group between care services and amusement machines.

## Issue flops at James Wilkes

Shareholders in James Wilkes, the Yorkshire mini-conglomerate, have taken up only 27.3 per cent of the shares issued to finance the £15 million purchase of Floform. Wilkes agreed to buy Floform, a spark plug electrode maker, from Hollis Industries last November, and announced a one-for-one rights issue at 205p a share to pay for it. The underwriters have been left with shares worth £12 million.

## Bulmer in £4.2m sale

HP Bulmer Holdings, the cider producer, is selling its Australian fruit juice business, Valencia Juice, to Southern Farmers Group for Aus\$8.4 million (£4.2 million). Valencia, showed a trading loss of Aus\$112,000 in the year to April 28, 1989. Net assets were Aus\$5.1 million at end-June 1989. The sale follows a slump in interim operating profits from Australian operations, from £325,000 to £120,000. Proceeds will reduce borrowings at Bulmer Australia, enabling it to concentrate on developing cider. The shares slipped 2p to 197p.

## VW travels east to make cars for West

By Neil Bennett

Volkswagen, the West German motor vehicle company, has set up a joint venture with the East Germans to design and produce cars for the western European market.

The company is spearheading an expected rush to invest in Eastern Europe. Volkswagen signed the agreement with IFA, East Germany's state-owned car manufacturer, just before Christmas.

It is now forming a joint venture company which will be based in West Germany because of legal difficulties in

the East. The joint venture will develop new car models to be built in East Germany and exported to Western Europe and America. Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest, says it is on hand to provide finance when the company needs plant and equipment.

The move is the first of many expected from German companies this year. Volkswagen has taken a head start against its rivals thanks to its five-year project with IFA to build four-cylinder engines for East German cars.

## Profits at LAWS jump to £5m on acquisitions

By Philip Pangalos

LAWS Group, the Irish food and agri-products group which is quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market in Dublin, lifted pre-tax profits by 56 per cent to Ir£5.65 million (£5.37 million) in the year to end-September.

Group turnover jumped by 77 per cent to Ir£242 million, boosted by the acquisitions of James Allen, Sherriffs and Unigrain, which helped sales

at the agri-products division surge from Ir£44 million to Ir£152 million.

Food sales improved from Ir£23 million to Ir£32 million and fertilizer profits rose despite sales falling from Ir£69 million to Ir£58 million.

Earnings per share rose by 32 per cent to 6.6p. The forecast total dividend of 1.5p was paid to shareholders on August 29 1989.

## Anglia TV has 19.6% of Mid-Anglia

By Our City Staff

Anglia Television Group, the ITV franchise covering the east of England, has acquired a further 8.6 per cent of Mid-Anglia Radio, the unquoted independent radio company which holds two franchises for Peterborough, Cambridge and Newmarket for £517,200 or £8 per share.

Anglia, which has increased its total holding to 19.6 per cent, is prevented by Independent Broadcasting Authority rules from acquiring more than 20 per cent.

It now holds substantial interests in all radio stations covering its television franchise area, including 9.6 per cent of Essex Radio and 19 per cent of the newly-quoted Chiltern Radio.

Reform across Europe means rewards and risks for UK companies. Melinda Wittstock reports

## Businesses cash in on Eastern promise

Chances flourish for firms to tap what is seen as the fastest-growing market in the world

A growing number of British companies are clamouring to capitalize on the revolutionary fervour sweeping Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union as it becomes clear that immense profits are to be made by those who get there first.

But those UK companies that arrived on the scene long before the opening of Berlin's Brandenburg Gate signified that the Eastern bloc was open for business, say it is a worthwhile investment only for those companies committed to a long haul.

Mr Jonathan Malins, chief executive of Telfos, the engineering group that became the first western company to take a majority stake in a Hungarian manufacturer, said: "I'd be very wary of companies that make passive investments in Eastern Europe."

"The only way to succeed in such an unstable and fast-changing environment is to roll up your sleeves and manage it yourself. Those who invest for fashion will lose their shirts."

Majority-stake joint ventures have so far become the most popular method for UK companies investing in Eastern Europe and the USSR, but while most have started small and cautiously, would-be newcomers now have no choice but to plunge in head first in order not to miss the boat.

West German companies have been quick off the mark in Eastern Europe, with the Americans, Finns, Austrians, Italians and Canadians in hot pursuit. "The very culture of the British is to take things more steadily; we were able to do that, but long before the investment potential became obvious," said Mr Richard Baldwin, executive director of APV, the UK food and drink equipment manufacturer.

"It's a little late to go about it gradually. Now the only way to make a significant impact is by signing major deals, which can carry a high degree of risk," said Mr Baldwin, who is responsible for APV's Eastern bloc strategy. "Companies



Gateway to the East: the opening of the Brandenburg Gate means social reform — as well as opportunities for western firms

have to be prepared to be there for the long-term."

Analysts following Eastern Europe say the foreign companies most likely to succeed in the fledgling democracies are those providing badly-needed infrastructure, consumer durables and food processing equipment, telecommunications and technological know-how.

Mr David Roach, of Morgan Stanley, said: "The risk is very high, but then so is the reward. Investors manufacturing products that meet a real need inside these economies, while also being suitable for Western export markets, will be more likely to succeed."

APV, whose turnover in the USSR and Eastern Europe grew 10-fold in 1989 to 10 per cent of its £900 million annual revenue, said its success has a lot to do with the demand for processed food and drink. "We're a blue chip industry there; feeding people always takes priority over everything else," said Mr Fred Smith, APV's chief executive.

APV, which last summer won a £50 million contract to convert empty Soviet vodka factories into cornflake and bran cereal plants, is negotiating to turn a disused missile silo into a processed cheese

factory and a joint venture to make components for food-making equipment at a former military vehicle factory.

APV, which expects sales to climb from £10 million last year to £100 million this year, put together its first Eastern European joint venture in Hungary in 1985, a 60 per cent-owned joint venture to make food processing equipment. Now, it operates every-

added that APV is very careful to make sure its joint venture companies can only sell their products through APV outlets in the West.

"What you have to avoid is giving them western technology and then letting them flood your markets with goods."

Fergabrook, the toys group which is now manufacturing its Frido and Wembley foot-

Union, but plans eventually to also export its Soviet-made products to the West. "We will continue to reinvest in the Soviet Union in the long-term," said Mr Nicholas Condon, Fergabrook's finance director.

Serif Cowells, the British and European Trivial Pursuit licensee, is about to enter into production with the Soviet version of the board game — after first creating market demand with a twice-weekly Trivial Pursuit quiz show watched by an estimated 91 million Soviet citizens.

Mr George Hering, Serif development director, said: "It's been a slow process for us, but once our success is proven, we plan to jack up the volumes very quickly. The biggest problem is knowing how to achieve a hard currency return; we will use royalties to manufacture other goods we will export to the West."

Telfos, whose train-building subsidiary Hunslet Holdings took a 51 per cent stake in Ganz-Hunslet — which has taken over all the activities and some assets of Hungary's Ganz Railway — says there are enormous opportunities to provide rolling stock in the Eastern bloc. Mr Malins expects Ganz's turnover to dou-

ble to £60 million this year, before possibly doubling again next year.

TIP Europe, the Anglo-Dutch trailer leasing group, plans to take advantage of the same need for better transportation infrastructure by renting trailers to the Russians from an initial base in Finland.

Mr Jim Cleary, TIP chairman, said: "We should see steady growth in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe."

Pilkington, which manufactures a third of its flat and safety glass in West Germany, is poised to use its East German links as a stepping stone to the rest of Eastern Europe, while ICI, the world's largest paint manufacturer, has been quick to set up a joint venture in Leningrad with Technichem, the Soviet chemical industry consortium. Burmah, the world's biggest lubricants group, has taken a 49 per cent stake in Explonaf, a Polish joint venture company.

GPT, Britain's main telecommunications equipment maker that is jointly-owned by GEC and Siemens, is about to introduce cashless pay phone services in Moscow through a joint venture with the Moscow Telephone Company.

There are chances for it and other telecom companies in Eastern Europe. Hungary has begun a 10-year project to add three million telephone lines to its national network; it is also introducing value-added network services and an advanced integrated digital network. About 30 to 40 per cent of the technology will have to be imported from the West.

Identifying opportunities — and quickly — will be the key to Britain's success in the fast-developing Eastern markets, as new liberal legislation is introduced steadily throughout Eastern Europe. So will good advice from political risk analysts.

Telfos's Mr Malins, who plans to cut 400 Ganz jobs — but pay those he employs "considerably more" — said: "There is bound to be some turmoil once the people realize capitalism is not a panacea that will cure all ills. Economic reality may not be all that palatable."

Morgan Stanley's Mr Roach said: "There is always the danger that the young democracies may react to economic turmoil by turning populist and deciding to oust all foreign investors, though this seems unlikely."

European Commission rejects plea for controls on imports from Taiwan and South Korea

## Britain's footwear industry walks a tightrope

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

Fears of further closures and job losses are stalking British footwear manufacturers, following setbacks in their campaign to contain an imports flood which is battering much of the rest of the EEC.

In the past two years — as particularly Far East producers switched their main exporting thrust to Europe because currency changes made the United States market less attractive — 19 British footwear makers have gone out of business. In the past year alone there has been an 8 per cent reduction in the British workforce — now at 45,300.

The latest casualty is Glovease, the last remaining specialist fashion boot-maker in Britain, which over Christmas went into receivership.

There are about 300 employed at its Leicestershire factory although there are hopes a buyer may be found. Another recent closure, in the same county, was Etough which had employed more than 700.

Now the European Commission has told the British Footwear Manufacturers Federation that its plea for controls over footwear coming in from Taiwan and South Korea has been turned down. Taiwan is the second largest overseas supplier to the British market after Italy, and South Korea is the fourth largest.

This blow for the British makers has come within days of the scrapping of a voluntary restraint agreement (VRA) on imports from Poland. This was imposed when the federation complained of Polish footwear being landed at less than the price of the raw materials used.

Mr Nick Calvert, director general of the federation, said: "All this is bad news for a hard-pressed industry. But at least a VRA remains in force on imports from Czechoslovakia, another producer at typical Eastern bloc prices."

The federation is fighting a rear-guard action on the Taiwan and South Korea decisions, pressing in Brussels for the issue to be looked at afresh. A crucial element in the decision was a refusal to support the industry from the Department of Trade and Industry.

What seems to have weakened the federation's case is the latest statistics, which show that in the January to October period last year South Korean imports dropped 28 per cent in volume while Taiwan's was down 18 per cent. But the federation has counter-arguments, one being that

by value the downturn is not so substantial as Far East suppliers have switched increasingly into producing the sort of higher-quality leather footwear which has been the mainstay of British production.

The other factor is that South Korea and Taiwan footwear makers have been setting up in even lower cost countries, especially Thailand and Indonesia. Imports into Britain from Thailand last year to October were up 36 per cent and those from Indonesia rose 22 per cent.

The effects of the European move on Poland in the wake of change in the Eastern bloc is for a trial period of 12 months after which the situation will be re-examined. The federation hopes that his may prove some restraint to the Poles in expanding trade too rapidly.

Far East suppliers have been

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# Bond accuses lenders of plotting his destruction

From Martin Winn, Sydney

Mr Alan Bond has struck back in desperation at the banks who seized control of his Australian breweries, filing writs accusing his lenders of trying to destroy his business empire.

Bond Brewing Holdings, which controls Bond Corporation's Swan and Castlemaine Breweries, filed a writ in the Victoria Supreme Court alleging that a syndicate led by the National Australia Bank had wilfully conspired to injure its operations.

The writ said the banks had engaged in wrongful and unlawful abuse of the legal process and that their action

breached loan agreements. A second writ sought permission for Bond Brewing to pay its US bond holders \$35 million (\$21.6 million) of interest which had been due on December 31.

Bond executives flew to New York yesterday to plead for an extra 30 days' grace from the American investors. These include Drexel Burnham Lambert, the junk bond specialist, which is believed to be poised to seek a liquidator for Bond Brewing in the Australian courts.

Bond Brewing's lenders have halted the payments after successfully applying on

Friday for a receiver to be appointed to the company. Bond Corp is appealing against the decision, which threatens to topple the rest of the debt-stricken Bond Group.

Meanwhile, Dallhold Investments, Mr Bond's family company, revealed that its banks had informally asked for their loans to be repaid after the appointment of receivers to Bond Brewing.

But Mr Michael Cross, Dallhold's managing director, said the company was neither able to quickly re-finance its borrowings — estimated at about Aus\$250 million (£120.7 million) — nor forced

to do so under its loan agreement.

He denied reports that Dallhold had defaulted on some of its borrowings and said it had minimal exposure to any collapse of Bond Corp.

Dallhold controls 58 per cent of Bond Corp, but its main asset is a large nickel project in Queensland. It also owns the Glympton Park Estate in Oxfordshire and most of Mr Bond's art collection.

Standard Chartered Bank, owed about Aus\$130 million by Dallhold, is believed to have posted a senior executive to Australia to monitor the company more closely.

## BET set to win bid for Hestair

By Jeremy Andrews

BET looks set to win its £192 million recommended bid for Hestair, the employment agency group, following the decision by Adia, the Swiss agency and computer leasing concern, to withdraw.

After buying Adia's 6.4 per cent stake in Hestair at 325p, BET bought shares in the market to take its overall interest to 29.9 per cent, as high as it can go without gaining anti-trust clearance in the United States.

Adia started the battle in November with its 282p all-cash offer, but this was topped last month when BET stepped in as a white knight with the support of Hestair's board.

The Swiss group had to decide by this weekend whether to raise its bid above BET's 325p cash terms, which the British industrial services group is combining with a 13-for-11 share swap.

Adia approached BET on Wednesday evening, and after it was announced that BET had bought the stake, Hestair's shares fell by 14p to 320p.

BET had no difficulty in buying further shares in the market to take the total, including acceptances, to near the 30 per cent limit to which it is restricted until approval has been attained for the acquisition under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Acts.

BET's own shares fell by 4p to 267p.

Mr Peter Muller, Adia's chief executive, said he was disappointed that his company had lost.

"I'm very sad about it. It certainly would have been a good thing for the staff of Hestair, but we have been very clear from the start that 282p was a full and fair price."

The fact that no other major employment agency group had intervened confirmed that it would have been wrong to pay more than BET was offering, he said.

Mr Nicholas Wills, BET's chief executive, said he was "delighted that we appear to be getting Hestair at what we felt was a fair price."

"Contract staffing is a large part of our support services business and this acquisition will give us an attractive means of entry to a sector of that business which has more exciting growth prospects than some of our more defensive sectors."

Hestair will be solely comprised of employment agencies once it has finished disposing of its pushchair, toy and stationery interests.

## Lowndes keeps fingers crossed over debt sums

Sleep is unlikely to come easily to James Gulliver and his fellow directors at Lowndes Queensway, the troubled retailing group. This is not so much because two of its bed suppliers have walked out and a third supplier, Kwiklok, which supplies furniture, is in receivership, but because the prospect of raising £70 million over the next couple of weeks is fraught with dangers.

The problem is that the refinancing sums require a large element of hope, if not hype, to make them arrive at a bottom line where value accrues to shareholders and where there is any prospect of generating enough profits to cover debt interest and make a return on equity. Lowndes shares are, conveniently but unjustifiably, suspended from the stock market at present, but there is no doubt that if they were trading, they would be below the 8.5p suspension price.

Since the suspension, there has been no development at Lowndes Queensway which remotely could be construed as good news. Suppliers have quit, the retail trade has got worse rather than better, other and probably better retail-

ers have admitted to financing problems, the new Chancellor has confirmed a high interest rate policy and the housing market has moved from neutral into reverse. The stock market has picked up a little, and institutions are more keen to buy shares than back buyouts.

It was always vague where the £70 million was going to come from, and in what form. Lowndes managed to raise £18.5 million via a rights issue at 20p a share in August, sub-underwritten mainly by existing shareholders. The latest effort involves "third party investors", who are either very brave, extremely foolish or are promised a fantastic return if the risk pays off. The new finance will have to find its place alongside other debts of around £160 million, half of which has an interest rate cap, for two more months, of 11.4 per cent.

Thereafter, it will cost the group approaching £30 million annually to service the debt, which is not very different from the level of profits achieved by Harris Queensway before the roof fell in.

## Poles apart over currencies

Central bank intervention in the foreign exchange markets works best when it is unexpected. Yesterday's sale of dollars by the Bundesbank certainly scored heavily on that front. Karl Otto Pöhl had left the currency dealers to get on with it for three months. During that time, moreover, the mark had appreciated about 10 per cent against both the US currency and sterling. The dollar's four-pennig recovery this year, however, illogical it seemed to some City economists, hardly appeared to demand counter-measures after a 16-pennig drop in the fourth quarter of 1989.

The message was clear. Herr Pöhl was very happy with a strong mark and did not see its appreciation in the wake of the opening of East Germany and former trading partners in Eastern Europe as temporary or embarrassing. That message, issued significantly on a day when the Bundesbank decided against interest rate changes, has been well taken in the markets.

The reasoning is not hard to decipher. Herr Pöhl has clearly decided that the German economy faces inflationary pressures through the unexpectedly high 4.5 per cent growth rate built up last year, which could even be repeated this one. Since this is fuelled by a permanent increase in the supply of labour from the East and new potential markets, rather than by cyclical excess in domestic demand, it could be counter-productive — as well as a wasted opportunity — to choke expansion through monetary policy.

In any case, the Bundesbank raised interest rates four times last year. And,

as the last one-point rise in October showed, further rises would have to be matched throughout Europe and probably elsewhere, hitting economies such as Britain's that are not nearly so buoyant.

Much better to exert anti-inflationary discipline through a strong exchange rate, especially if that can be achieved without higher interest rates. This should carry the important benefit of reducing West Germany's trade surplus to the West, especially with the United States, as well as creating more room for the East.

The implications are not quite so transparent. There is much speculation that West Germany wants to push harder for a realignment of the ERM currencies and, for a shift in the crucial unofficial target zones in the dollar/mark/yen triangle which the economic summit countries are still supposed to be maintaining — in other words a revaluation of the mark.

It would be more logical to see the German stance as merely paving the way for that, should it prove necessary in the future. It is quite likely that some further rises in German interest rates will eventually be needed. That would, for instance, have to be matched in Britain if other governments compete in anti-inflationary rectitude. But further rises in British interest rates to maintain sterling would kick the economy when it was already on the ground. That could only be prevented by a general agreement in the United States and the rest of Europe (and possibly Japan) not to follow the mark.

## Trump card for George Walker



Building transatlantic co-operation on America's West Coast: Donald Trump becomes property partner to George Walker

Mr Donald Trump — the ostentatious New York property developer who became embroiled in controversy after withdrawing a \$7.1 billion bid for American Airlines — has teamed up with Brent Walker and Power Corporation, of Ireland, in a Californian property partnership (Melinda Wittstock writes).

He has taken a 20 per cent stake in the Wilshire Centre Partnership, which comprises Power Corp, Amec, the construction group, Brent Walker, headed by Mr George Walker, and Scott

D Malkin Properties, of the United States, for \$12.8 million (\$8 million). The partnership, formed in July to acquire the 23.5-acre Ambassador Hotel site on the fashionable Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles for \$64 million, plans to construct 6 million sq ft of retail, hotel, office and leisure accommodation.

Mr Trump, whose wife Ivana installed pink marble throughout New York's Plaza Hotel, is expected to produce a master-plan for the site by the autumn. After Mr Trump's purchase, Power Corp

and Brent Walker will each hold a 24 per cent stake, Amec 20 per cent and Malkin 12 per cent.

Mr Trump is to pay \$4.3 million cash, satisfying the rest of the consideration through his obligation to the \$42.7 million three-year non-recourse mortgage on the Ambassador site, best-known as the haunt of Hollywood film stars, but infamous as the place where Mr Robert Kennedy was shot in 1968.

It is Mr Trump's first deal on the US West Coast with European partners.

## Sussex County and Eastbourne to link

By Jon Ashworth

The Eastbourne Mutual and Sussex County building societies have announced plans to merge later this year, in a deal which will take combined assets to over £800 million.

But the proposed merger, to be voted on in May, is unlikely to see any bonus payouts for customers. Both societies will use reserves to improve standards of service, in the face of growing competition.

Mr Peter Spence, Sussex County's managing director, said bonuses were unlikely because both societies held a similar level of reserves. "Unlike previous mergers, there is no question of an equalization of reserves. We feel they should instead be used to boost levels of service." Talk of bonus payments has been

rife since Cheltenham & Gloucester announced plans to merge with the much smaller Guardian Building Society in November. The 80,000 Guardian savers stood to receive 4 per cent of their balances — making an average cash payment of £520 each.

Three quarters of account holders need to vote in favour of the merger for it to go ahead. A simple majority of borrowers is also required. Meetings will be held in May, with a view to completing the merger in October. No redundancies are planned.

Eastbourne has 55,000 account holders, reserves of £16.5 million and £206 million in retail funds. Sussex has 90,000 account holders, £25 million in gross reserves and retail funds of £338 million.

## Sales of De Beers' diamonds slow

By Colin Campbell, Mining Correspondent

Annual sales of rough diamonds by De Beers' marketing arm, the Central Selling Organisation, slipped from a 1988 record \$4.17 billion to \$4.09 billion (£2.52 billion) in 1989, although in South African rand terms sales were a record at R10.66 billion (R9.48 billion).

The CSO said second-half 1989 sales were \$1.77 billion compared with \$2.32 billion in the January-June period, and that overall 1989 was a year of consolidation in which diamond markets returned to more normal and stable conditions.

Analysts were not surprised by the lower year-end 1989 sales figures, which reflect a slower rate of growth in retail sales — affected by high interest rates, an unexpected

appreciation in the dollar and the slowing of global growth. "It would have been unrealistic to expect the exceptional momentum of growth of the previous year (1988 over 1987) to be maintained," De Beers said.

However, early indications that retail diamond sales still grew by 5 per cent in 1989 — having risen 14 per cent in 1987 and 16 per cent in 1988 — can still be regarded as "more than satisfactory."

The CSO, which raised diamond prices by an average 15.5 per cent last March, says there has been some slowing in demand for certain larger sizes of rough diamonds.

De Beers, whose annual results are due in early March, saw its shares rise by 21p to £11.01.

## Keeping it in the family

Tim Bridge, who assumed the MD's chair at Greene, King, the Suffolk brewer, from January 2 — the day that his father, John, retired as chairman — has a number of useful City connections should he ever need to fend off an advance from Elders DXL, which owns 13 per cent. For Bridge, aged 40, and descended from the original King family, is the nephew of Robin Rushbrooke, a well-known and respected City character, and retired senior partner of Giles & Cresswell, the gilt jobber sold to Merrill Lynch in 1987. Regarded as one of the best sales of Big Bang — Merrill is reputed to have paid about £5 million — Bridge's brother Desmond was also a partner at Giles & Cresswell and is now a gentleman of leisure. "He is actually doing a course in antique restoration, simply because it is something he enjoys," says Tim. Rushbrooke, meanwhile, can still be spotted from time to time in the watering holes of the Square Mile, keeping in touch with his old colleagues. But being an established member of the old City guard — those who once trod the Stock Exchange dealing floor — he still has to suffer the traditional indignity of having a ridiculous nickname. In his case, and quite unfairly for such a popular and amiable chap, it is "the murderer."

"It's because of his expressionless face," explained one slightly shamefaced City chum.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

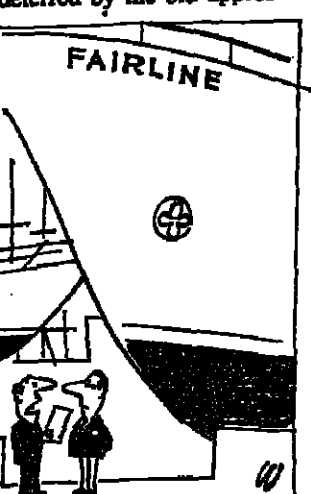
### Still doing rather well

The main event at the opening of Harrods' sale on Wednesday was, I'm told, a race to the television department on the second floor. Bargain hunters were competing to be the first person to touch, and thus claim, a Sony 25-inch text television reduced from £549 to £399. Eric Seal of Wanstead, after pounding up the escalators at breakneck speed, watched horrified as the prize was snatched from under his

nose by a grasping lunge from a smartly dressed young man in yuppie spectacles. "Where did he come from?" gasped the third to finish, in disbelief. "I am acquisitions manager for Lord Hanson," said the winner, one Andrew Arends, who was himself still panting as the cost of the item was billed to his gold card. "I chase bargains all the time. Really, the rest did not have a chance." Clearly a professional.

### Gone sailing

Sam Newington, the chairman of Fairline Boats, was undeterred by the bid approach



"Is that the price per boat or an acceptable bid for the company?"

from manning one of his exhibits at Ears Court, yesterday. He told me he had been busy talking to German customers wanting to buy more boats. The first day of the Boat Show has gone very well, he said, before ducking below deck to escape bid talk swirling around the stand. The bidder chose his moment well, for the share buying activity was nearly masked by a traditional pre-show price rise — last year they rose by almost 30 per cent before the show.

### Cut-price cops

Supermarket owners in the city of Dallas, Texas, claim that shoplifting has been reduced by almost one-third in their stores since they installed "scartecrooks." These are apparently just life-size cardboard cutouts of gun-toting policemen.

## Then there was one

Nick Parsons and Paul Murray, both market-makers at Robert Fleming Securities, left the firm on Wednesday evening. Parsons, a respected and experienced market figure, who joined Flemings just 11 months ago, was recruited from County NatWest in order to reconstruct a three-man team that had worked together at Bisgood Bishop, the jobbing firm built up by Brian Winterlood and then sold to County NatWest. For already ensconced at Flemings were Terry Connor and Bob Wade, both directors of the European trading desk there, who had jointly moved from Bisgood to Flemings, via Chicorp Scrimgeour Vickers. "They have left," confirmed Connor yesterday. "We have reviewed the coming year and unfortunately we have had to bite some bullets and face some hard facts. It is sad but you cannot let personalities come into it when you're running a business." Murray had been with the firm for three years.

### Going bananas

If you have had too much to drink already this year, then you should now be going on a banana binge. So say doctors at the University of California who have found that drinking alcohol increases blood pressure. Potassium helps reverse that increase and, according to Dr Michael Crichton, in an article in *Circulation*, the United States medical journal, bananas are one of the best natural sources of potassium.

Carol Leonard

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# Nervous trading

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (an) denotes Alpha Stocks.

[illegible]

Thames Water	164	166	-1	18.4	11.8	4.0
Welsh Water	162	164	-1	22.4	13.7	2.8
Western Water	172	177	-5	20.2	11.6	3.6
Yorkshire Water	175	177	-2	26.5	11.7	3.9
30 Package Unit	£1645	--	£-5	--	--	--

● Ex dividend ■ Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude ■ special payment i Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.



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## MOTURING

## Driving into the Nineties

Ford and Rover are setting the pace with a new Escort and Metro, Daniel Ward reports in his round-up of the year's new cars



Looking good: the Alfa Lusso is elegant and purposeful

## The Alfa roars in at 135mph

Behind the theory that expensive sports cars are all driven by dynamic 25-year-olds who have as much use for an automatic gearbox as a session book, is the reality (Daniel Ward writes).

Many of the owners are nearer to 40, if not older, and they spend hours each day in traffic jams. For them a sporty, prestige car is a perk, but an automatic gearbox is essential. Hence it would be difficult to find a Porsche 928 with a manual gearbox in the company car park. The same rules apply to the improved is the speed of throttle response. On country roads the tiddiness of the kick-down can become annoying. One solution is to change down manually, but the selector has a heavy action.

There is no switch for sports and economy modes for the transmission but, then, would you want the economy setting in an Alfa? Probably not.

Alfa decided to give the fine-sounding 3 litre V6 engine a little more torque and 7bhp less power for the auto 164. This is a wise move as there is less need to rev the engine to achieve an energetic performance.

Although the automatic model is about a second slower sprinting to 60mph than the manual 164, it is more stable under hard acceleration, particularly on uneven surfaces. Top speed is more than 135mph. Admittedly, there are quieter and more exactly refined cars in the prestige class, but the Alfa's attraction is hard to resist.

Pinfarina's styling is sporty yet restrained, elegant but purposeful. The doors close with a subdued, quality sounding thud. Above all it is a comfortable and relaxing vehicle.

In an office car park full of luxury BMWs, Mercedes and Porsches, the Alfa 164 will more than hold its own for all the right reasons.

There are quieter and more refined cars, but this one is hard to resist

This year the 10-year-old Metro and Ford Escort will move aside for successors.

In 1980, it was the diminutive Metro that stole the limelight at the Birmingham motor show, as both the pride of Britain's motor industry and the survival hope of Austin Rover. However, it was the Escort which went on to become such a consistent best-seller in Britain.

This time around, the Escort is likely to attract more interest. The car is all new and bigger than the old model, which will be remembered for its sharp, stylish looks rather than its cabin dimensions.

Following on from the new Fiesta, we can expect next June's Escort to ride more comfortably and handle better. But the new model will have to make do with the present 1.4 and 1.6 litre engines until new and more efficient 16-valve engines are available in 1992.

By contrast, the engine represents the main change for the new Metro. Under the longer bonnet will be the latest all-aluminium K series 1.1 and 1.4 litre engines, first seen in the new Rover 200. And at last the Metro will have five gears, not four.

The car has been made a few inches longer to accommodate the new engine, but the cabin

will be hardly changed. This explains why the 1990 Metro will look remarkably similar to its predecessor.

A rival to the Metro will be the next generation Renault 5. While the Metro will be in British showrooms in April, the R5 is likely to make its French debut in late September. It will need to be much more roomy inside than the present cramped R5.

Other new 1990 arrivals in the supermini class will be the facelifted Uxus, bearing the features of the bigger Tipo, while Ford will add the giant-killing Fiesta RS Turbo model to its range.

This spring, there will be a new Toyota Starlet, though import restrictions will restrict the number on sale in Britain.

Rover plans to keep up its hectic pace of new model launches with the birth in March of the Rover 400, a four-door saloon version of the 200 hatchback. Stepping into the popular shoes of the old-style Rover 200, the 400 will provide tough opposition for the Ford Orion and Vauxhall Belmont.

Simultaneously, the Japanese will launch a Honda Concerto saloon, sister model to the Rover.

Many potential Rover 400 owners will also consider the latest Vauxhall Cavalier, based on the 440 hatchback. It's a



Preview: the new Ford Escort is bigger and handles better, but makes do with the old engine until the 16-valve arrives in 1992

tough, rugged car, but I maintain, not built to the quality standards of the rival Audi 80 or BMW 3 series.

It would require a long memory to recall when Fiat last had a competitive mid-range saloon — the Regatta certainly was not — but this summer the Italian firm will launch the four-door Fiat Tempra, based on the Tipo hatchback. The new car will be roomy and competitively priced in the 1.4 to 2 litre class. A seven-seater estate car will follow, probably in 1991.

Japan's seven-seater rival to the Renault Espace, the Toyota Previa, should arrive in Britain by late summer. It promises to be an interesting vehicle, with the engine positioned on its side beneath the middle seats.

Hoping to attain a more luxurious image than the Tempra will be the Lancia Dedra, to be unveiled in Britain in March. An awful name for a likeable car.

This year, too, the West German manufacturers will go some way to matching the Japanese range of multi-valve

engines. April sees the launch of the 16-valve, 136bhp BMW 318iS, and the new 2 litre 16V (140bhp) Audi 80 will add to the marque's range.

The now very familiar-looking BMW 3 series will be replaced in 1991 by an all new "baby" BMW 5 series model. Underlining that there will be no shortage of new performance models this year, Ford will launch a four-wheel drive version of the turbo-charged Sierra Cosworth at the end of this month. Resting on this car are Ford's hopes for a successful return to rallying.

Four-wheel drive will be available on the Citroën BX GTI and a BX estate car.

over's new sporty models will not be wearing the MG badge when they appear in August.

Instead, the new label will be Rover 214 GTI and Rover 216 GTI. These three-door hatchbacks will look like coupes.

The new Lotus Elan goes on sale this month, though the first year's production is already sold out. The handsome

Lotus and stunning Vauxhall Calibra (on sale in early summer) provide the European opposition to a stream of sporty Japanese products.

In 1990, these will include an all-new Toyota Celica, which handles better than its predecessor, though the styling is a backward step, and a new Toyota MR2. Although this is bigger than the original model and the 1.6 litre engine has been replaced by a 2 litre, Toyota claims it will be only marginally more expensive.

The tear-about Honda CRX coupe will be fitted with a new 160bhp engine.

At the top of the sporting class, the elegant Jaguar XJS will this year receive a major facelift. Tinkering with a classic design can be tricky, but certainly the awful instruments are overdue for change.

Coming within a few weeks is the four-door saloon version of the Ford Granada. Half the cars sold in the executive class are saloons so the hatchback Ford has been at a disadvantage for some time.

Although Rover will be producing the 800 executive

range until 1992, this year sees the replacement of its sister model, the Honda Legend, exactly four years after its debut. In America, the Legend has sold well, but it has achieved little in Europe. The new car may fare better.

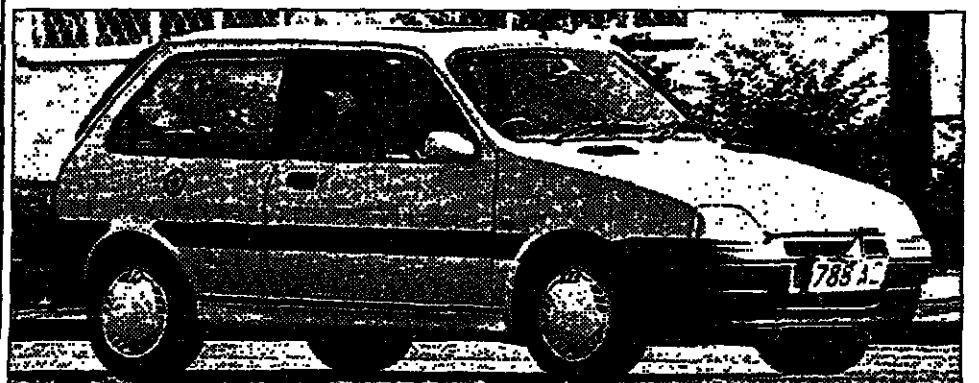
A rise in petrol prices could make the launch of the Rover 800 turbo-diesel later this year particularly timely.

In May, comes the impressive Peugeot 605 executive model. It is not the most refined car in its class but a worthy Peugeot flagship.

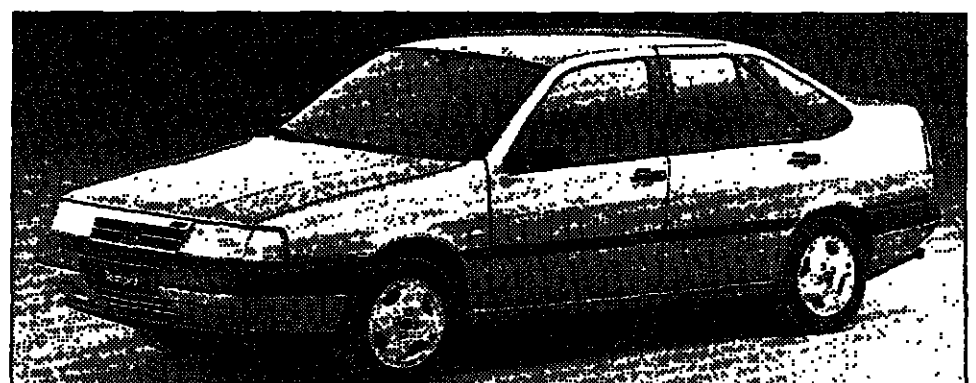
Until the Japanese launched Lexus and Infiniti, luxury marques meant just BMW, Jaguar and Mercedes. This year, however, an Audi V8, the company's first luxury car, will be launched in Britain. It is the first four-wheel drive car fitted with automatic transmission in its class. The price will be about £39,000.

More significant will be the replacement for the Mercedes S class. It is unlikely to be available here until 1991.

On sale in August will be the BMW 850i V12 coupé, costing close to £60,000.



Change: the Metro has a longer bonnet to take the all-aluminium K series (Rover 200) engine



Italian style: the Fiat Tempra, based on the Tipo hatchback, is roomy and competitively priced

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## YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Edited by Derek Harris  
Industrial EditorNew rates system  
could see rises of  
more than 500%

By Derek Harris

The forecast by Mr John Banham, the director general of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), that the introduction of the Uniform Business Rate from next April would bring a "hurricane" of complaints is likely to come true.

Increases in actual rates bills of 100 per cent, or even 500 per cent or more in some cases, can be expected, although the pain should get lighter the further north the business. Retailers are probably going to be the worst hit when, for the sake of their trade, they have to operate from prime locations.

The increases reflect what businesses will have to pay after five years of the new rate being placed in, with a maximum 20 per cent rise each year plus indexation for inflation.

Instead of waiting for the first of the big new bills to arrive in April, it should have been possible to see draft lists at local authority offices from this week.

Some authorities seem loath to give details over the telephone and there are reports of councils charging about £4 to those wishing to read the lists.

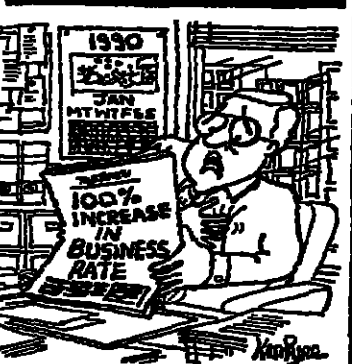
The lists are only drafts and are likely to include mistakes. Between now and April there could also be informal negotiations over assessments with the appropriate local valuation officer.

(look in the telephone directory under Inland Revenue). Formal appeals can also be lodged.

A booklet, *Small Business Guide to the Uniform Business Rate*, has been available for some weeks for £1 from the National Federation of Self Employed and Small Businesses (140 Lower Marsh, Westminster Bridge, London SE1 7AE).

The booklet was brought out, sponsored by Thomson Local Directories, because it was found that three quarters of small businesses had never heard of the new rating system.

## MR FRIDAY



"So much for all those cards wishing me a prosperous new year!"

## Well-suited for the City

By Rodney Hobson

The yuppie may think he is a trend-setting individual, but in matters of clothing he still follows the boss.

That is the experience of Mrs Corinne Fernandes, who set up her own business a year ago to provide suits to City gents. From the small premises of Perfectly Suited in Battersea, south-west London, she can be at the West End or the City within 15 minutes to measure up clients in their own offices for made-to-measure suits.

She said: "Who sets the trends? Those with the best jobs and, because of that, probably those with the most money. Younger members of staff see the boss looking smart and say they want a suit just like his."

"People higher up are confident about how they look and those under them think that if they have similar clothes, maybe it will help them."

Young staff members tend to buy from the cheaper end of the £220 and upwards price range and often have to be weaned away from off-the-peg suits.

Mrs Fernandes does not carry any stock. She uses 20 books with cloth samples and relies on referrals for new business. She makes up to 35 suits a month and could manage more if she had a partner.

The suits are made in the north of England and 90 per cent fit perfectly at the first sitting. The other 10 per cent are altered within a week, so clients have their completed orders within four weeks.

The economic squeeze and the

fall in stock market business has not stopped City gents buying good quality clothes. Typically, they want four a year, sometimes saving time by picking all four clothes at one go for delivery at three month intervals throughout the year.

In the 1990s, the sober City suit will still reign. Nor will the spread of women in financial circles necessarily brighten the scene. Mrs Fernandes said: "Many of them are clones of men and wear suits. They are just a little more colourful."

On the other hand, some customers need to be discouraged from following fashion too slavishly. Latest styles look wrong on some individuals, and expensive clothes are made to last longer than fashions.

Fancy jacket linings will be in this year, to set off the plain suit. Flying duck and golfer designs are already much in demand.

Braces will survive. Mrs Fernandes said: "If you have a bit of a tummy, it disguises the width. There is no need to decide whether to have the top of your trousers above or below the waist."

Many yuppies vent their frustration at having to wear sober clothing by going for patterned trouser shorts. Top of the pops in designs are hearts and sexy rabbits.

While many men hate being dragged round the shops by their partners, Mrs Fernandes said: "Some of the most powerful men in the City will not choose a cloth without their wives' say-so."



Just the measure: Corinne Fernandes with City client Tim Score

CBI guide  
to help  
attract  
right staff

Many smaller businesses need guidance on the recruitment and selection of suitable staff, according to Mr Harry Kleeman, chairman of the smaller firms council at the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

This view has prompted the CBI to bring out a guide to overcome the problem and help smaller firms make the best use of their advantages to attract and keep good staff. This is especially important in a world where skill shortages are growing and the supply of younger people is set to continue dwindling for several years.

Smaller businesses can often attract good recruits because of the varied and interesting employment on offer, says Mr Kleeman. He believes the new guide will help managers of smaller concerns to select the right people and avoid expensive mistakes.

It is a step-by-step guide on the key elements in filling a vacant post, covering preparation of job descriptions, interview techniques, and creation of an effective package of pay and conditions. Non-pay elements can often be as important as the pay itself, the guide points out.

● *Finding People for Your Business: £5 from Publications Sales, CBI, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU.*

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# Dreams of Kenyan glory burn brightly

The Commonwealth Games in Auckland are set to be a celebration of Kenyan middle-distance running as the legacy of Keino is upheld by a wealth of emerging talent. Bruce Tulloh, the former British athlete, has taken to the hills to discover the secret of the amazing Kenyans

The Commonwealth Games are rightly known as the "friendly" games, but that does not mean the competition is not of a high standard. On the track, it will be very high, and nowhere more so than in the men's middle and long distance. Seven of the last eight Olympic 1,500 metres, and five of the 800 metres titles in the same period, have been won by Commonwealth athletes.

The longer distances have been equally dominated by Commonwealth runners, from the days of Murray Halberg and Ron Clarke, through the era of Henry Rono and Dave Moorcroft, to the present. Kenya holds Olympic titles in the 800, 1,500 and 5,000 metres, and in the 3,000 metres steeplechase, as well as world titles for the 10,000 metres and marathon, and both the team and individual titles for cross-country.

As the Auckland Games approach, we can look forward to seeing what we were denied in Edinburgh, the confrontation of the latest wave of Kenyan talent and the best from Britain and Australia.

Much has been written about the wealth of raw talent in the Nandi hills, but the secret has never been satisfactorily unearthed. The obvious answer is "altitude", yet one can point to great runners such as the marathon man, Wakihari, and the Tanzanian, Bayi and Ikanga, who were not brought up at a great altitude.

One can also find places in the Andes, the Alps and the mountains of Asia, where large populations live at altitudes similar to those of the Kenyan highlands without producing a single athlete, so these can only be contributory factors.

If you drive north from Nairobi on the Uganda road, you wind laboriously up from 5,000 to 7,000 feet. You are in Kilimanjaro country, a rich, well populated land, full of bustle and bright colours. Looking out to the west, the Rift Valley stretches away into the distance, where the Maasai graze their herds. Going further north, you cross the Equator, and reach a height of over 9,000 feet at Timboroa. Timboroa has no far produced no athletes. Ten miles further on, there is a left fork in the road; if you follow this, you come to a point with a panorama of gently rolling hills and woods. It could be Surrey, except that it is much smaller. These are the Nandi Hills, and they have produced more Olympic gold medal winners in athletics in the last 25 years than most European nations.

I went up there with Mike Boit, who but for the boycott might well have been the winner of the 800 metres in Montreal. I first met him when he was a student and I

was a teacher at Kenyatta College in 1971. The following year he won a bronze medal behind Kip Keino in Munich, the start of an international career which lasted until 1985.

Like many other Kenyans, he followed the American college trail, taking a first degree in New Mexico, a Master's at Stanford and, eventually, a Ph.D. at Eugene, Oregon. Every year he travelled the European circuit: Oslo, Brussels, Zurich and London. He went back to Kenya at the end of the season, bought a few more cows or a bit more land, then went back to the United States to study. Now, he is Dr Boit, a man of property, head of the physical education department at Kenyatta University, and spokesman for the Kenya AAA.

He showed me his old home in Lessos, from where one could see Henry Rono's home, Amos Biwott's home and Kip Keino's home.

Maybe the secret is a genetic one — certainly, no one can reach these levels of performance without the genetic potential, and the Nandis, with a population of no more than a quarter of a million, must share a common gene pool. But Boit does not share this view. "In the old days, the Nandis were great warriors: we took the best land, we had the most cattle, we would raid the other tribes for wives and cattle. Even the Luo, who outnumbered us 10 to one, were afraid to attack us. But the Nandi are not exclusive; anyone can become a Nandi, through observing our traditions, so we tend to assimilate people from other tribes."

One of the traditions is the circumcision ceremony which young men have to undergo. It is very painful, but no one ever cries out because it is a matter of pride. It is there, in that warrior's pride, that part of their secret lies.

This matter of pride was developed further when I talked to Kip Keino. For my generation, Keino remains the greatest of all the great Kenyans. He competed in three Olympic Games, something which others were denied by the boycotts of 1976 and 1980. He won the 1,500 metres gold medal in Mexico in 1968, and was runner-up in the 5,000 metres, and four years later, in Munich, he won the steeplechase and was runner-up in the 1,500 metres. He spent most of his running career in the police force, but has earned the respect of his countrymen. I went to visit him on his farm outside Eldoret.

Kipchoke is a gentleman. He insisted we stay for lunch, he showed me the farm, he apologized for being a little tired. "One of our boys got married yesterday. We put on a party for 400, and 600 turned up."



Two of a kind: Kip Keino (left) and Yobes Ondieki, the great African distance runners who share far more than a simple physical resemblance

The boy was not one of his own sons, but one of the "family", which he and his wife, Phyllis, maintain — 45 orphaned or abandoned children, between the ages of a few months and 18 years. It is an immense load, which he shrugs off unassuming. "We have plenty of food on the farm [it is about 400 acres]. The cows produce milk, the manure produces gas for cooking and lighting, and the rest goes to grow the vegetables. There is always somebody to look after them — but finding school fees is a problem."

When he talked about running, he used the same phrase that I remember him using in a training talk before the 1972 Games. "If you want to win, sometimes you have to accept to burn. It doesn't matter how many miles you run,

unless you accept to burn, in training and in races, you won't win."

I asked him what made the Nandis successful. "There was a man on the farm next door to me. He went off abroad to run, and did well. I thought 'if he can do it, so I started to take running seriously.' From this simple beginning, it seems, things spread.

Amos Biwott, another neighbour, decided that he, too, was a good enough runner to run for Kenya — he won the Olympic steeplechase in Mexico — and the young Mike Boit followed their lead. Here, another factor came in, for Boit, like other promising athletes, was taken into St Patrick's School, Iken, where he

received a good education and organized training from the dedicated Irish brothers who run it. For more than 25 years, St Patrick's has turned out leading sportsmen. They have helped many an athlete towards achieving his dream, but the important thing is the dream itself. All men live for their dreams, but the dreams of glory burn more strongly in Kenya than anywhere else in the world. The flame was lit in the Nandi Hills.

At first, it spread only by word of mouth, so was confined to a small area, but now it has spread all over the country. Coaching is rudimentary, facilities are few and far between, but the climate and the country are superb, and the rewards for the successful athlete, compared with the subsistence

economy of much of the country, ensure a constant stream of talented youngsters entering the competitive system. It is just as well that the talent pool is large because the wastage is appalling. It seems that nature has compensated for Kenya having the best athletes by giving them the worst administration. As fast as the talent appears, it disappears, in a westerly direction, bound for the United States. Here, the athletes develop fast but they seldom last long, and there is continual friction between the "American" Kenyans and the officials. Perhaps friction is the wrong word, because it implies contact, which is just what is lacking.

For last month's trials, tickets were supposed to have been sent out for their return. It was announced quite positively that the first three in each event would be selected, if they achieved the qualifying standard. In the event, only one of the "Americans" competed, and the declared selection policy was torn up.

Paul Ereng pleaded an injury, and never left the United States — where it would not be surprising to find him fit for the lucrative indoor season. Billy Konchellah, apparently fit and well two days before the trials, decided to watch the 800 metres rather than run. Robert Kibet, the find of the 1989 season, did run but dropped out. The selectors picked the first two, Nixon Kiprotich and Sammy Tirop, and added Kibet, thus leaving out the current Olympic champion and the current world champion.

Wilfred Oanda Kirochi, who ranked third in the world 1,500 metres last season, finished only fourth in the trial. He was rightly selected, not at the expense of the third man, Joseph Cheshire, but of the second man, the Maasai runner, Sisa Kirati, whose run of 3min 37sec, at altitude, was well inside the qualifying standard.

And so it went on. In the steeplechase, in which Kenya has the world's leading three runners, the first and third in the trials were picked, but not the second. In the 5,000 metres, none of the first three was picked, the selectors preferring the reputations of Yobes Ondieki, who did not run, and John Ngugi, who came fifth. The 18 year old, William Sigei, who has beaten Ngugi twice this season and run 13min 44sec at altitude, will have to wait another couple of years.

Kenya's abundance of talent is its weakness as well as its strength. Who needs a development programme when you only have to put on a trial race to find someone like Robert Kibet or Joseph Kibor? No matter that there are virtually no field event athletes, and only a handful of women competitors, as long as there are men in the hills who can run the legs off the rest of the world.

Joseph Kibor looks like being the latest of these. He comes from a tiny village 10,000 feet up in the Cherangani Hills. His tribe, the Elgeyo Marakwet, are the poor relations of the Kalenjin group, which is dominated by the Nandi. Unlike the latter, who make up the majority of the Kenyan pantheon, the Elgeyo Marakwet have never produced a top-class runner. But Joseph, aged 16, having had a bit of success at school, decided that he was going to run in the 10,000 metres. To raise the bus fare to Kisumu, he had sold his only marketable possession, a goat.

Twenty-six years after independence, Kenya's strongest links are with Britain, and our influence could be reinforced in the best of ways were we to offer job training and scholarships to some of Kenya's brightest youngsters. We might learn something from them, too. The greatest compliment a Kenyan can pay is to say: "You really tried." That is the message of the Kenyan athletes, from Kip Keino to Joseph Kibor.

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

### Finest attack faces the best defence

By Robert Kirley

The National Football League wild-card games have been decided; now the divisional champions join the fray. The San Francisco 49ers enter the playoffs by hosting the Minnesota Vikings in the first round of the National Football Conference (NFC) semi-final. The game matches the defending Super Bowl champions, who have the league's finest attack, against the leading defence.

In the other NFC semi-final, the Los Angeles Rams play away to the New York Giants. In the American Football Conference (AFC), the Buffalo Bills face the Cleveland Browns, and the Pittsburgh Steelers take on the Denver Broncos.

When the Rams won the NFC wild-card game last Sunday, it meant that Minnesota and San Francisco would face each other for the third successive year in the playoffs. Last year the 49ers trounced the Vikings 34-9. Two years ago, Minnesota reached the NFC championship game with a 36-24 victory in San Francisco. The Vikings lost the NFC final 17-10 that year to the Washington Redskins, who won the Super Bowl.

"This is the rubber game," Jerry Burns, the Minnesota coach, said. "Our road to the Super Bowl was going through San Francisco, anyway, so why not start with them?"

San Francisco, favoured to retain their championship, have the best record in the league, 14 wins and two defeats; Minnesota are 10-6. The clubs did not face each other during the season.

The Rams, who won in Philadelphia on Sunday, con-

## Godridge holds ascendancy

From Barry Wood, Brisbane

Kristen Godridge could have difficulty obtaining a visa for Czechoslovakia, if ever she needs one, after defeating her second seeded opponent in two days from that country, to reach the quarter-finals of the Australian women's hardcourt championships.

The remarkable 16-year-old Australian defeated Radka Zrubakova, who is ranked 32nd in the world, 6-1, 7-5. Godridge is ranked 341, but about to rocket to a level that will take her out of the satellite events and into some of the main circuit tournaments.

The tenacity she displayed was stunning to watch, and the sheer will to win was strong. She has a fine volley, an

excellent sliced backhand, and she hits to a perfect length. Apart from the odd expletive, she remained perfectly composed under pressure.

There have been many who flourished for a week, only to fade into obscurity. Our own Valda Lake was one. There is plenty to suggest that Godridge will take a different path.

She names Jimmy Connors as her biggest inspiration, "because he always gives 100 per cent in every match, and you can't get a better attitude than that."

As the temperature on court reached 50° C, or 122° F, another promising Australian, Rachel McQuillan, also progressed at the expense of Stacey Martin, who was beaten 6-1, 6-4.

McQuillan was wise, wore a hat against the sun, pulled her chair into the shade of the umpires, and poured cold water on her feet at the change-overs. Still she got blisters.

Helena Sukova, the top seed, was rocked a little by Isabelle Demongeot, who led 2-0 and 40-0 in the final set, but then conceded only five points in the rest of the match to win 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

RESULTS: Second round: S Martin (US) bt B Paulus (Aust), 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Zrubakova (Cz) bt U Pinner (Aust), 6-2, 6-3; Third round: B Scholtz (West) bt K Rinder (US), 7-5, 6-1; McQuillan (Aus) bt S Martin (US), 6-1, 6-4; Demongeot (Fr) bt P Fendick (US), 6-2, 6-3; Sukova (Cz) bt I Demongeot (Fr), 6-2, 4-6, 6-2; K Godridge (Aus) bt R Zrubakova (Cz), 6-1, 7-5; N Zvereva (USSR) bt E House (Japan), 7-5, 6-4.

Germany, defeated the seventh seed, Michael Schapers, of The Netherlands, 6-4, 6-3.

Such will face Brugnera in the quarter-finals, and Kratzmann will meet the third seed, Thomas Muster, of Austria, who defeated the Australian Davis Cup player, John Fitzgerald, 6-2, 7-6.

Jimmy Arias, of the United States, will play Mark Koevermans, of The Netherlands, and Jean Fleuriat, of France, will meet Jerome Potier, also from France.

The tournament is one of a series of events in the warm-up to the Australian Open in Melbourne, which begins on January 15.

RESULTS: Singles: Second round: M Kratzmann (Aus) bt P Annacore (US), 6-4, 6-3; M Schapers (Ger) bt A Schapers (Neth), 6-4, 6-3; S Brugnera (Sp) bt S Dyle (Aus), 6-7, 6-2, 6-3; T Muster (Aust) bt J Fitzgerald (Aus), 6-2, 7-6 (7-5).

Chesnokov is beaten

Wellington (AFP) — Broken racket strings ended the hopes of Andre Chesnokov, of the Soviet Union, as he tumbled out of the \$15,000 (approximately £9,100) New Zealand national championships here yesterday.

After playing strongly in the first set, the second seed was beaten by Richey Reneburg, of the United States, who took the quarter-final, 2-6, 6-0, 6-0.

Chesnokov lost 12 games in

## Victory to Horan completes season

From Andy Martin, Honolulu

The surf was not "all-time", as they say, "mural", or even "classic". Six to eight feet, perfect anywhere else, is modest by Hawaiian standards. But the final day of the Billabong Pro at Sunset Beach was still "Big Wednesday" for Cheyne Horan.

Throughout the man-on-man duels, Horan out-maneuvred, out-buffed and out-powered all opposition, including Martin Potter, of Great Britain, to carry off the biggest prize in the history of surfing — \$50,000.

Horan's victory over Ross Clarke-Jones in an all-Australian final also made him runner-up for the coveted Triple Crown title. The winner — for the second time — was Gary Elbertson, of Australia, beaten into fifth place by the Hawaiian, Mike Lestrone, in the Billabong Masters and second place in the Hard Rock Cafe World Cup already under his belt. Potter had to be content with winning the world title after six contest victories in the past year.

In the growing world of professional surfing, they say once you are down you never come back. Horan has proved the exception to the rule. A veteran among surfers at aged 29, he was runner-up in the world title a soul-debilitating four times at the end of the Seventies.

In the Eighties he slid progressively down the rankings. Now he has climbed back into the privileged top 16, who are given an easy ride into the latter stages of the contest by the seeding system.

While Potter has earned more than \$1 million this year in winnings and endorsements, Deanehorst is going back to a job as a waiter to finance his next quest. "I've had a terrible year", but added: "I'll be back next year. Realistically, I don't have much of a shot at the title. But I still have a goal: I want to get the Most Improved Surfer of the Year award."

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"I'm feeling rejuvenated, recycled, and ready to take the title next year," Horan said. He was talking about the world title. Although Hawaii is, more than any other, the place where surfers want to win — its big waves carry maximum kudos and your performance here determines your status among your peers — what they still all hanker after is Potter's position.

This is probably why Potter could afford to be philosophical about his fifth and two ninths in Hawaii: "I gave it my best shot."

The pro surfers now have a chance to regroup for a couple of months. The first contest of the 1990 season is the accurately named "Cold Water Classic", held in Northern California, in March — a shock to the system after the balmy waters of Hawaii.

But while Potter, Elbertson and Horan rest on their laurels and plot how to stay on or get on top, there is one other English surfer with less exalted ambitions. Ted Deanehorst, aged 32, who was placed 235th in the world after Hawaii, admitted: "I've had a terrible year", but added: "I'll be back next year. Realistically, I don't have much of a shot at the title. But I still have a goal: I want to get the Most Improved Surfer of the Year award."

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## ATHLETICS

### Coe happy with his preparation

By David Powell

Athletics Correspondent

Sebastian Coe was a comfortable winner yesterday in his first race in nearly four months, indicating that preparations are going well for his last international appearance, at the Commonwealth Games which begin in Auckland on January 24.

Coe, who has yet to win a Commonwealth medal, is to attempt both the 800 and 1,500 metres in Auckland and the signs in Hobart, where he won a low-key 1,000 metres, were promising. "He was perfectly happy with the way things went," Peter Coe, his father and coach, said. "He won by about half a second from one of the Australians in 2min 21sec and said he felt fit at the end."

Coe's time was some nine seconds outside the world best of 2min 12.18sec which he set in 1981 and which still stands. But the athlete, who has been encouraged by his progress in training in the month or so he has been in Australia, reported that it had been "blowing a gale" and that he had run from the front to keep free from trouble, pushing for home from 300 metres out.

"He said he was pleased — after all the Australians are in the height of their summer season and this was his first race," Peter Coe added.

In his only previous Commonwealth Games, at Edinburgh in 1986, Coe reached the 800 metres final but a throat infection caused him to withdraw. His last race on a British track was in the McVie's Challenge meeting at Crystal Palace in mid-September, when he won the 800 metres.

Coe's prospects for a successful end to his international career have been enhanced by the omission from the England team of Steve Cram, the Commonwealth champion at both distances, and the Kenyan selectors' decision to leave out Paul Ereng and Peter Rono, respectively the Olympic champions at the shorter and longer events, because they failed to contest the trials.

After the Games Coe, aged 33, is to concentrate on a political career as the prospective Conservative party Parliamentary candidate for Falmouth and Camborne.

## SUMO WRESTLING

### Culture shock horror

Tokyo (Reuters) — The head of Japan's Sumo Association said he would uphold a centuries-old tradition barring women from being foot inside the Japanese wrestling ring, even to present a trophy.

The traditional culture of sumo must be preserved," the Sumo Association director, Futsuyama, said.

The controversy began when the Chief Cabinet Secretary, Yasuhiro Morioka, said she wished to break with tradition by entering the dohyo, or sumo ring, to present the Prime Minister's Cup for a forthcoming tournament.

But Futsuyama said he had received no formal request from Morioka. An association spokesman said it would soon officially decide the issue.

RESULTS: Singles: Second round: S Dyle (Aus) bt J Fitzgerald (Aus), 6-2, 7-6 (7-5).

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## Pipe poised for profitable Haydock raid

### No stone unturned as Lingfield passes safety inspection

By Mandarin

Martin Pipe and Peter Scudamore can maintain their excellent strike rate at Haydock Park by completing a treble there today.

The Wellington-trained three representatives were all successful on the Lancashire course on their latest race-course appearances.

Gold Service, who made an impressive winning debut 22 days ago, can start the ball rolling in the Federation Brewery Legend Bitter Novices Hurdle.

I expect him to have most to fear from Dunmore, a good winner of a National Hunt flat race at Punchestown last April. But on this occasion his fitness has to be questioned.

Sabin Du Loir, one of the best 2½-mile chasers in the country, should have too much speed for Swarden in the Federation Brewery LCL Pils Lager Intermediate Chase.

Last season, Swarden stamped himself as a promising chasing recruit after winning the 3m 11m Mum Club Novices' Chase at Liverpool by three lengths from Envojak Token. But I expect today's trip to prove too sharp for him.

The champion trainer and jockey can complete their treble with Star's Delight, the

winner of all his four chases this season, in the Federation Brewery Special Ale Handicap Chase.

Rifle Range, who put up a fine display when finishing second to Highfirth on his debut on this course in December, can return to form in the Federation Brewery Novices' Chase.

He failed to fulfil that promise when jumping deplorably until falling at the seventh fence at Kempton Park on Boxing Day. Today, I feel he will be better suited reverting back to this left-handed course after his dislike for the sharp right-handed bends at the Sunbury course.

Mark Bradstock, the East Garston trainer, runs an interesting Irish recruit in Strokesdon Lad for the Federation Brewery Pale Ale Handicap Hurdle. Last June, the former Paddy Mullins-trained gelding won a handicap hurdle at Tipperary very impressively.

But on this occasion I side with Tree Poppy, the winner of three of her four races last season. On her final outing she was far from disgraced when beaten under 20 lengths in seventh place in a competitive hurdle won by Out Of Range at Ascot in April.

Knight is napped to open his account for the season in the Cliftonville Handicap Chase.

Last term, the Roselier gelding showed considerable aptitude for chasing when winning good contests at Chepstow and Sandown Park.

On his final outing at Aintree, the former point-to-pointer, shaped well to finish third behind the very useful Feroda. This season, at Chepstow he was travelling like a winner, in second place, before falling at the second last in the contest won by The Leggett.

Today, his main rival could be the Tim Forster-trained Basilea. But this former useful Irish hurdler has yet to show that form over fences in this country.

Forster, nevertheless, can be on the mark with Absolute Beginner in the M20 Novices' Chase. Last season, the chestnut, who won a point-in-point in Ireland, eventually got his act together over fences and showed plenty of ability.

At Lingfield Park, he failed by two lengths to get the better of Envojak Token, who went on to capture the Sun Alliance Chase at the Cheltenham festival.

The Letcombe Bassett trainer can complete a double with Cloven Rocks, who has



The grey eight-year-old Star's Delight, who has won all his four outings over fences this term, is fancied to complete a successful treble for Martin Pipe at Haydock

been plagued with sore shins, in the Fair Rosamund Handicap Chase. On his seasonal debut, at Wincanton on Boxing Day, the grey ran an encouraging race to finish fourth behind Rowlandsons Jewels.

At Edinburgh, Jimmy Fitzgerald can continue his ex-

cellent run of success with Blacksburg in the First Of Many National Hunt flat race.

Earlier, the Malton trainer can also score with Third In Line in the EBF Novices' Chase. Last time out, the Proverb gelding fell at the third-last fence when in second place in a good contest

won by the useful Blazing Walker.

Mick Easterby looks to have the answer to the Broughton Handicap Hurdle with Macarthur. On his latest outing, on this course, the gelding ran well under a big weight to finish fourth behind Rich Nephew.

Jockey Club safety experts gave Lingfield Park's all-weather racing the go-ahead yesterday, after an inspection and an array of workers with buckets had cleared the £4 million track of stones.

The problem surfaced 24 hours earlier when Dr Michael Allen, the Jockey Club's medical officer, found flints — some 1½ inches in diameter, on the track during the hurdle-race meeting. Jockey Michael Furlong, hit on the leg by a stone, claimed parts of the track were "dangerous".

Jockey Club officials started an investigation yesterday, and found the problem centred primarily on two areas — immediately after the bend past the winning post and beyond the seven-furlong start — where recent topping-up of the Equitane surface was necessary to maintain levels.

Charles Weatherby, the Jockey Club's director of field services, explained: "In the course of this topping-up, stones from the drainage ditches on either side of the all-weather track could have been drawn in and, as happened in the earlier laying of the full circumference, sharp and angular stones could have been included in the Equitane mix."

"An inspection of the full circuit revealed only a very small quantity of stones, caused, it is thought, by a legacy from a

deeper setting of the harrows some weeks ago to provide a more suitable surface for the hurdles races."

Weatherby stressed there is no possibility the stones could have worked their way to the surface from the hard-core base under the sand.

The Lingfield executive may introduce steps to restrict racegoers to certain areas of the course, to limit the risk of stones being carried accidentally or wilfully on to the racing surface.

### Eldin's colt in element on sand

Lingfield has its problems, but Newmarket trainer Eric Eldin will be eternally grateful for all-weather racing as it has given his five-year-old The Shanshan Bay a new lease of life.

The front-runner, making all once again, recorded his fourth all-weather triumph in the "Cold as Charity" Claiming Stakes.

"He moves like a tame crow when walking and wears out his legs at home, but he can really gallop on the sand," said Eldin, adding: "His knees are bad, and it is just a question of how long he stands racing, but he is doing pretty well at the moment."

Apprentice Colin Campbell was fined £45 for failing to weigh in on fourth-placed Murnumring.

## HAYDOCK PARK

### Selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Gold Service.  
1.15 Sabin Du Loir.  
1.45 More Distinct.

By Michael Seely

1.45 MORE DISTINCT (nap), 2.45 Rifle Range.

### Going: soft

12.45 FEDERATION BREWERY LEGEND BITTER NOVICES HURDLE (22,318: 2m) (20 runners)

1	GOLD SERVICE (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
2	DUNMORE (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	57
3	BREKID (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	57
4	EDWARDS LAST (4) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56
5	CHARITABLE DAWN (5) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56
6	CHARITABLE DAWN (5) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56
7	CHARITABLE DAWN (5) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56
8	CHARITABLE DAWN (5) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56
9	CHARITABLE DAWN (5) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56
10	CHARITABLE DAWN (5) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56
11	CHARITABLE DAWN (5) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56
12	CHARITABLE DAWN (5) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56
13	CHARITABLE DAWN (5) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56
14	CHARITABLE DAWN (5) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56
15	CHARITABLE DAWN (5) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56
16	CHARITABLE DAWN (5) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56
17	CHARITABLE DAWN (5) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56
18	CHARITABLE DAWN (5) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56
19	CHARITABLE DAWN (5) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56
20	CHARITABLE DAWN (5) (Holliday) R Peacock 5-11-5	G Lyons	56

BETTING: 4-7 Gold Service, 4-1 Sabin Du Loir, 4-1 Better Times, 10-1 Swarden, 12-1 Dunmore, 14-1 Others.

12.50 YOUNG BENE 5-11-5 (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11

BETTING: 4-7 Gold Service, 4-1 Sabin Du Loir, 4-1 Better Times, 10-1 Swarden, 12-1 Dunmore, 14-1 Others.

1.15 FEDERATION BREWERY LCL PILS LAGER INTERMEDIATE CHASE (23,420: 2m) (3 runners)

1	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
2	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
3	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59

BETTING: 4-7 Sabin Du Loir, 4-1 Swarden, 4-1 Better Times, 10-1 Swarden, 12-1 Dunmore, 14-1 Others.

1.45 MORE DISTINCT (nap), 2.45 Rifle Range.

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## 1.45 FEDERATION BREWERY LEGEND LA CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HURDLE (22,145: 3m) (11 runners)

1	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
2	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
3	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
4	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
5	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
6	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
7	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
8	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
9	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
10	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
11	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59

BETTING: 4-7 Gold Service, 4-1 Sabin Du Loir, 4-1 Better Times, 10-1 Swarden, 12-1 Dunmore, 14-1 Others.

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## EDINBURGH

### Selections

By Mandarin

12.30 Random Warrior. 1.0 Third In Line. 1.30 Over. 3.0 Ringmore. 3.30 Blackburg.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating

2.0 ALWAYS DANGEROUS.

12.30 LOTHIAN RACING SYNDICATE NOVICES HURDLE (21,504: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

1	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
2	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
3	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
4	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
5	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
6	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
7	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59
8	11P-11 SARDIN DU LOIR (5) (W Norton) M Pipe 5-11-11	P Scudamore	59

BETTING: 4-7 Gold Service, 4-1 Sabin Du Loir, 4-1 Better Times, 10-1 Swarden, 12-1 Dunmore, 14-1 Others.

1.45 MORE DISTINCT (nap), 2.45 Rifle Range.











